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**Inside today:
Stripes' guide to
the election year**



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earn AF Colonel
the Bronze Star**

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in fatherhood,
new cable show**

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Withdrawal plans not surprising in Pacific

Official announcement expected in president's speech in Ohio

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Goal adjustment

Americans falter in relay, leaving Phelps no shot at surpassing Spitz

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Unnerving upset

Puerto Rico hands U.S. men basketball loss for the record books

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Allen Iverson,
left, and Tim
Duncan



Learning the ropes

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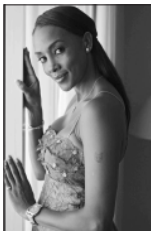


LAMEL J. HINTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Midshipman 1st Class Yuval Fleming, of Tucson, Ariz., takes in the view from "culture's row" as an SH-60 Seahawk helicopter from Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron 14 prepares to launch from the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk last week. Fleming, along with other midshipmen, is aboard the Kitty Hawk to get a more in-depth view of Navy life at sea. The Kitty Hawk operates from Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Church sex-abuse scandal: Seventeen adults who sued the Philadelphia archdiocese for alleged child sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy waited too long to file suit, a judge ruled.

Judge Arnold New rejected claims that a cover-up by the archdiocese helped hide the abuse from the victims' families, preventing them from suing within the two-year time limit.

A 2002 law extended that deadline to an alleged victim's 30th birthday, but the new law is not retroactive.

Hacking murder probe: Family and friends of Lori Hacking gathered Saturday in Orem, Utah, for a memorial service to remember the woman who authorities believe was slain by her husband while she slept.

About 600 people attended the service, including the parents of both Lori Hacking and her husband, Mark, who has been charged with her murder.

Jackson case: The Santa Barbara, Calif., sheriff has asked a judge for permission to release the results of a state probe into allegations that Michael Jackson was "manhandled" by authorities after his arrest for investigation of child molestation.

Sheriff Jim Anderson asked for a state investigation last year after Jackson claimed he was mistreated while in custody.

James memorial: Grammy Award-winning funk singer Rick James was laid to rest Saturday in his hometown of Buffalo, N.Y., where 6,000 people waited for hours to pay their final respects.

The line of mourners stretched more than two city blocks for the funeral service. Seventy gospel singers and a band performed a lively tribute.

James was to be cremated after the service, funeral director Vincent Amigone said.

California wildfire: A wind-fueled wildfire roared through an old mining town in northern California on Sunday, destroying 20 homes and forcing nearly 125 residents to flee, officials said.

The blaze broke out Saturday afternoon and quickly grew to 2,500 acres, sweeping through the mountain community of French Gulch, said Linda Galvan, spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.



Burundi massacre: Tutsi refugees from Congo who survived a massacre by Hutu extremists at the U.N.-run camp in Gataba, Burundi, begin the grim task Sunday of identifying 150 bodies of relatives and friends who were shot, hacked and burned to death in ethnic violence reminiscent of the 1994 genocide in neighboring Rwanda. A Burundian Hutu rebel group claimed responsibility for the attack late Friday on the refugee camp in Gataba, which sheltered Congolese Tutsis who had fled fighting in their troubled country.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

World

Palestinian unrest: About 1,600 Palestinian prisoners began a hunger strike Sunday to protest conditions in Israeli jails, despite a warning by Israel's public security minister that they could "starve to death" before he agrees to ease restrictions.

An extended fast by this many inmates would be the biggest challenge to Israeli prison authorities since the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in 2000. The remaining Palestinian prisoners and detainees — Israel holds a total of about 7,500 — are to join the hunger strike by the end of the week, organizers said.

Israeli Public Security Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said over the weekend that Israel would not give in to the prisoners' demands.

Detained professor: China has denied allegations that it mistreated a Chinese-born American college professor accused of spying before deporting him earlier this month, state media said Sunday.

Fei-Ling Wang, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, was detained in China for two weeks on espionage charges and released Aug. 8, when he re-

turned to the United States.

Wang, a naturalized American citizen, was arrested July 25.

Sri Lankan rebels: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have refused to discuss a government proposal on power-sharing, demanding that peace negotiations focus only on their plan for self-rule, a pro-rebel report said Sunday.

The Tigers presented a blueprint for self-rule called the Interim Self-Governing Authority, or ISGA, last October. It called for a largely independent territory with control over its own administration, police and legal system, unrestricted access to the sea, and the right to collect taxes and receive direct foreign aid.

War on terrorism

Diplomat hostages: Iran on Sunday rejected conditions set by a militant group holding a top Iranian diplomat hostage in Baghdad, saying Tehran was not holding Iraqi prisoners to exchange.

A militant group holding Iranian diplomat Faroukh Jilani has said it would release him if Iran frees 500 Iraqi prisoners it is holding, the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television station reported early Sunday.

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Troops shuffle discussed for years in Pacific

Announcement by president expected during campaign speech in Ohio

BY DAVID ALLEN
AND VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

President Bush's expected announcement this week of a major shift of troop strength in Europe and the Pacific might not come as much of a surprise at all to Pacific commanders.

News reports this weekend, including from The Washington Post, stated Bush would announce Monday that he plans to move up to 70,000 troops from Europe and Asia, reassigning most of them to the United States. About two-thirds of those to be moved would come from Europe, the newspaper reported, citing a senior aide involved in developing the plan — meaning a third of the total might be culled from Asia.

Bush wasn't expected to make any such plans public until a speech Monday in electorally important state Ohio, comment Sunday from U.S. military commanders in the Pacific was sparse to nonexistent.

But the Pentagon and White House have been talking for years about how best to array U.S. forces after the breakup of the Soviet Union, and to meet the demands of the war on terror. And the military has been talking openly in key spots in the Pa-

cific about making major alterations to its troop strength and concentrations.

Administration officials have said for more than two years, the paper reported, that they plan to move 60,000 troops from Europe, mostly from Germany, and 30,000 from Asia, mostly from Japan and Korea.

However, Asian allies have indicated concern at any plans to withdraw troops; the U.S. official involved in the planning predicted any redeployments likely would entail lengthy negotiations with the countries now hosting the troops.

For instance, while military and diplomatic officials in South Korea could not be reached for comment Sunday, in recent months, several overtures regarding U.S. forces in South Korea have been made public. American officials have proposed removing around one-third of the 38,000 servicemen in South Korea by the end of next year.

South Korean officials, wary the move would create the appearance of a "security vacuum," have asked for the reduction to be postponed by one or two years.

The two sides will discuss the U.S. proposal in the next round of Future of the Alliance talks, scheduled for Aug. 19 in Seoul.

The U.S. also has deployed the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division to Iraq, marking the first time troops have been pulled from South Korea and sent directly to another theater of war. In a statement announcing the troop reduction proposal, U.S. officials said the 3,600 troops sent to Iraq likely would be part of the 12,500 troops relocated out of South Korea.

On another front, the Pentagon is in the midst of shuffling U.S. bases around the Korean peninsula, closing some installations and consolidating others onto an expanded military hub in the Poyongtaek area.

Under that plan, Yongsan Garrison in Seoul is to be closed by the end of 2008, with all 7,000 troops currently assigned there to be moved further south.

On Okinawa, a Marine spokesman Sunday said he was not aware of any proposed cutbacks in the 17,000 Marines stationed on the Japanese island.

But troop strength on Okinawa may be affected another way. This week the USS Fort McHenry and USS Harpers Ferry, amphibious ships operating from Sasebo Naval Base in southern Japan, now are providing transportation to about 1,000 Hawaii-based Marines deployed to Okinawa for the training, who now have received orders for the Middle East.

It was the second such diversion. Earlier this year, some 300 Marines and sailors from U.S. bases, on Okinawa for six months of training under the Unit Deployment Program, were sent to Iraq along with associated aviation and support elements from other Okinawa-based units.

At the time, Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr., commanding general of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Base Japan, said the redeployment of troops away from Okinawa was temporary and would not endanger East Asian stability.

Col. Victor Warzinski, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman, said it's unclear how many troops and which bases would be impacted by any proposed realignment — or when that might occur.

"It's premature for us to talk about it," he said Sunday. "We'll see what the president has to say. As you officials have been involved in fairly long discussions with the Japanese government, and those will continue."

"But I have no specifics on anything. Until the president actually steps out and speaks, no one will know for sure."

Stars reporter Joseph Giordano contributed to this report.

PACAF's top enlisted man touts proposed blue BDUs

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Pacific Air Forces Command Chief Master Sgt. David Popp was easy to spot during his recent stops at bases in Japan and Okinawa.

Popp was the one in the blue fatigues.

PACAF's top enlisted man, Popp met with airmen at Kadena, Yokota and Misawa air bases, wrapping up his two-week visit at Misawa Friday with an enlisted call in Hangar 949.

The purpose of his trip was two-fold, he said. To lead the senior noncommissioned-officer induction ceremonies and seminars, and gauge the morale and readiness of the troops for new PACAF commander, Gen. Paul V. Hester.

"My message is: Thank you for your message to your country. Thank you for your sacrifice because not all Americans are able to make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life and also to help others," he said.

One long with it be ... three months ... before they'll be telling us it's got to be pressed?" asked one airman.

The Air Force is touting the uniform as "wash and wear." Unlike the current battle dress uniform, it doesn't need starching, dry cleaning or ironing to look profes-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

PACAF Command Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, wearing the service's new blue BDUs, shows off the Air Force's proposed physical training uniform: a blue sweat suit with reflective material, shorts and a gray T-shirt. Popp talked Friday to enlisted troops at Misawa Air Base, Japan. He's been visiting Air Force bases in Okinawa and Japan wearing what's expected to be the new Air Force utility uniform.

sional, officials say, which will save airmen time and money. Popp said his uniform required only 35 minutes in the dryer and no ironing.

"That's one of the selling features," he said.

But, addressing the airmen's question, Popp said he understood the concern, since the current BDU was also supposed to be wash and wear.

"So I hear what you're saying," Popp told him. "I wish I could tell you that you'll never starch this ... If that's the way they're advertising it, we need to make sure that it truly is wash and wear."

Popp has already suggested, he said, that more perma-press chemicals be added to the uniform's material "so it truly does look like it has a crease." Others have recommended sewing a crease into the sleeves and legs, he said.

"The key word is this is still a test uniform," Popp said, advising airmen to submit their suggestions or concerns at: <http://www.af.mil/uniform>. The Air Force is still seeking feedback about the proposed uniform.

More than 500 airmen are testing the uniform at nine different

bases; PACAF's test base is Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Airmen in the fields of operations, maintenance, support and medical are documenting how many hours they wear the uniform, the detergents and wash cycles they use to launder it, and whether they note any problems, such as fading, Popp said.

Popp said he's received mostly positive feedback on the uniform. "Many people are saying it truly is a distinct uniform to the Air Force," Popp said. But "it's very blue." They say, "Chief, is there any way that we can tone down the blue?"

Popp said the uniform is meant to make airmen distinctive from members of the other services at their home station, they'll be issued other uniforms when they deploy depending on the combatant commander's wishes.

Air Force officials say the proposed colors represent current and past uniform colors: The blue represents the service dress, the sage green represents the flight suit, the tan represents the desert uniform and the gray is from an old utility uniform. The tiger-strips pattern was worn during the Vietnam War era.

Popp said the Air Force is expected to make a decision early next year. "Then, I would say, four years from now all of us will be wearing the new utility uniform," he added.

Also during his base visits, Popp showed airmen the Air Force's proposed physical training uniform: A blue sweat suit with reflective material, shorts and a gray T-shirt.

The gear — the service's first authorized PT uniform for squad-ron fitness programs — is supposed to be introduced early this fall, but Popp said there are "design problems," explaining that the Air Force is looking for a contractor or vendor to make a quality uniform.

The work-out clothing would be issued to enlisted members, with officers required to buy the uniform.

Popp said servicemen would be able to pack the uniform on deployments. "When we deploy, we're not authorized to take a lot of civilian clothes with us, so now we have an optional set of clothes."

E-mail: jennifer.h.svan@strips.osd.mil

University crash prompts grounding of CH-53s

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stars and Stripes

GINOWAN, Okinawa — U.S. Marines have grounded all CH-53 helicopters on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in the wake of Friday's crash of a Sea Stallion medium-lift helicopter into a university building.

"All CH-53 helicopters will be grounded until a safety inspection is complete," 2nd Lt. Antony Andriano, public affairs officer for Marines on Okinawa, said Sunday. He said other types of helicopters would continue to fly and the CH-53s would be put back into service as each completes the safety check.

All three above the crashed helicopter were injured, one seriously, Marine officials said.

The Marines' initial investigation into the crash sparked sharp criticism from Japanese officials, who said they were denied almost all access to the Okinawa International University crash site. Military police did allow Japanese police and firefighters to take photos and video footage of the helicopter wreckage late Sunday, according to Japanese news reports. A police spokesman said negotiations continued over allowing Okinawan officials

to conduct their own investigation of the crash, which would include physically examining the wreckage.

Okinawa police said they were allowed to photograph the scene because U.S. military officials told them that preparations were being made to remove the wreckage, which could include cutting down trees on the university campus, and they needed evidence of the condition of the crash site before it was changed.

However, they said the Marines' initial refusal to let them examine the crash site prompted them, at 9:10 p.m. Friday, to obtain a court warrant allowing the search. A prefectural police spokesman said Marines still would not allow them to physically examine the crash scene, although on Sunday, they did allow them to take the photographs.

The Marines' initial refusal to allow access to the Okinawa International University crash site sparked angry complaints from Japanese officials. "Japan is not Iraq," Shogo Arai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs parliamentary secretary, said during a news conference at the ministry's North American Affairs Bureau in Naha. "The

way the American military is handling the case, as though it has sovereignty over the area, is not right."

In a news release issued Sunday afternoon, Andriano stated, "In the spirit of cooperation, the Marine Corps asked the Okinawa Prefectural Police to assist with security at the site of the incident, and they have agreed to secure the site jointly with the U.S. military. Protecting and maintaining the integrity of the site, so that an extensive and thorough investigation can be completed, is essential."

Three crew members were injured, one seriously, when the helicopter crashed Friday afternoon some 330 yards from the fence line to the Marine air station. Witnesses say they saw the rotor blade detach from the aircraft and the helicopter then zigzag as it lost altitude, before crashing into the side of the university's administration building.

"The Marine Corps is in the initial stages of conducting an extensive and thorough investigation into the cause of the unfortunate CH-53 D accident," Andriano stated in the release. "The Marine Corps takes safety, both in the air and on the ground, very seriously."

He said the command was taking "every appropriate measure to prevent any recurrence." The III Marine Expeditionary Force suspended all helicopter flight operations during the weekend.

"All helicopters received an extensive safety inspection and were cleared in anticipation of resuming limited flight operations for non-CH-53D helicopters," he stated. "The Okinawa Area Coordinator and III Marine Expeditionary Force are deeply regretful the accident occurred and for the anxiety the incident has caused, and are extremely thankful" that no Okinawan was seriously injured.

Ginowan Mayor Yoichi Iha blasted the Marines' denial of access to the site, demanding to know whether Okinawa belonged to Japan or the United States.

Arai, from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the national government is seeking to clarify the conditions under the bilateral status of forces agreement that establishes how investigations into military accidents should proceed.

Chiyoumi Sumida contributed to this report.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@pstrips.osd.mil

Quick thinking earns AF colonel Bronze Star

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — During Operation Iraqi Freedom in early 2003, Col. Bob Harvey had a unique vantage point on the war.

As deputy director of the newly created Air Component Coordination Element at Camp Doha, Kuwait, he guided an elite 20-member, multinational team responsible for integrating air power with the ground attack in joint combat operations.

From the command center, ACCE tracked coalition forces in real time as they advanced on Baghdad, always careful not to place them in the line of friendly air support.

For his service, Harvey earned the Bronze Star on Friday for meritorious achievement. Lt. Gen. Thomas Waskow, commander of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force, presented the medal in a brief ceremony at the Yokota Officers' Club.

Today, we recognize one of our senior leaders for his accomplishments. But more importantly, it's his accomplishments in a combat zone," Waskow said. "The who we are, and that's what we do."

"This was one of those innovative ideas the Air Force had during the war. It's special for me to be here today to honor one of our own."

Harvey, the 665th Air Operations Group commander at Yokota, was sent to Kuwait in February 2003. Acting in a liaison role on the highest leadership levels, he provided air-power perspective and advice to the acut ground commanders engineering the war.

The first lesson there: Be real," Harvey said. "That's what we do in the military."

"The most important thing was had to do was translate Air Force

concepts into the Army and Marines operations. It was all about being heard, understood and acknowledged."

He said the 20-member team tackled "groundbreaking stuff," but its implementation turned out to be a delicate process.

According to the medal citation, Harvey's expertise of the new operation concepts "led to the rapid defeat of the Iraqi regime, its armed forces, and death squads."

"He led team participation in the targeting process, resulting in unprecedented coordination and responsiveness for air support of ground forces," the citation stated.

"During combat operations, Colonel Harvey noticed friendly forces soon advance beyond the fire support coordination line and quickly coordinated a change in the airspace control order, thereby negating a possible blue-on-blue situation. His actions undoubtedly saved lives."

Harvey was humbled by the award and honored to be part of that 20-member unit in Kuwait.

"We were able to make an impact," he said. "We literally wrote the book on the ACCE concept. I'm very proud to be part of that, and very proud to be part of a huge victory."

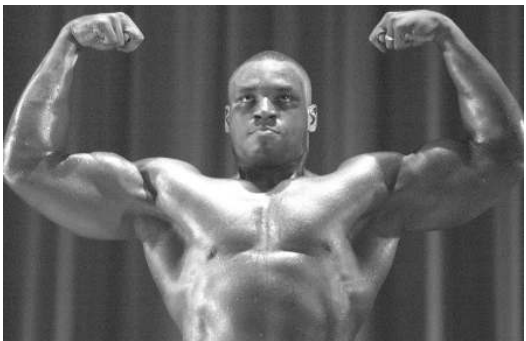
"But the real heroes are the kids out there on the front lines. The stories I could tell, would make anybody's eyes water. If I could shake the hands of every one of our ground guys, I would — to thank them for the jobs they do. They deserve our full support."

The Bronze Star is awarded to U.S. armed forces members serving in a combat situation who have distinguished themselves by exceptional achievement or meritorious service.

The award was established in 1944 by an executive order issued by the President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@pstrips.osd.mil

Flexing for the judges



DAVE ORINIAUER/Stars and Stripes

Men's heavyweight champion Vladimir Smith does a double front bicep pose during Sunday's 9th Marine Corps Community Services Far East Body Building Competition at Butler Theater, Camp Foster, Okinawa. Smith was the only division winner on the men's side, while Navy Lt. Monique Gourdin-Shaw won the women's overall championship.

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N.M. airmen take on support role at Kunsan

About 300 airmen from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., are currently deployed at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea to support Air Expeditionary Force operations in the Pacific Region. Left: A boots'-eye view through the legs of Staff Sgt. Brian Hennard, a crew chief from the 49th Maintenance Squadron at Holloman, as he marshals an F-117 Stealth fighter Saturday for an end-of-runway check.

Above, left: Airmen from the 49th Maintenance Squadron conduct the check on the F-117. Above: An F-16 fighter jet, foreground, from the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan, and a 49th Tactical Fighter Squadron F-117 from Holloman taxi out for a training mission Saturday.

PHOTOS BY VAL GEMPIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

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Film crew says it found U.S. defector in N. Korea

BY STEPHANIE HOO
The Associated Press

BEIJING — A British film crew says it has found the last American defector still living in North Korea — a U.S. Army private who crossed over to the Stalinist state in 1962 and says he is glad he did.

Pvt. James Dresnok lives in the capital Pyongyang, where he says he likes his "simple life," said filmmaker Nicholas Bonner, who met him there in May and plans to make a documentary about him.

"To us he's the most fascinating character because he's still there," Bonner said Sunday. The U.S. military has said that

Dresnok, from Norfolk, Va., left the army in August 1962 at age 21.

The film crew met with Dresnok and with Charles Jenkins, an accused U.S. Army deserter from North Carolina who has since left North Korea for Japan.

"We were under the supervision of the North Korean military," Dresnok told the filmmakers according to their news release. "They took good care of us and they requested us to teach English to military personnel."

Dresnok and Jenkins told the filmmakers that two other American servicemen had died in North Korea of natural causes — Pvt. Larry A. Abshire of Urbana, Ill., who the U.S. military says went missing from his unit in May 1962 at age 19, and Cpl. Jerry W. Parrish of Morganfield, Ky., who is accused of deserting in December 1963 at age 19.

Jenkins has also told officials in Japan that two American servicemen he knew in North Korea had died and that one still lives there, according to Japanese news reports.

Bonner and fellow filmmaker Daniel Gordon plan to film interviews with Dresnok in September, following an agreement with the North Korean government.

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Midshipmen learn ropes, learn their paths

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

Midshipman 1st Class Charles Leary was at the helm of the guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur when a man-overboard call came. It was just a drill, but it required some of the most difficult maneuvering on a ship.

For someone not yet out of college or commissioned in the Navy, it was an unmatched opportunity.

"It's one thing to just observe what's going on. It's another to do it," the Purdue University student said. "You take away the real experience of the Navy that you can't learn in the classroom."

Midshipmen such as Leary — naval officers-in-training from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., or with a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program — spend several weeks during summer break serving on a ship, aircraft or submarine learning to be sailors, leaders and mariners.

For a lucky 600 this year, that experience also meant a trip to Asia.

The midshipmen summer cruise can take place anywhere in the world. In Japan, commands that welcomed them added cultural visits as part of the curriculum. They flew more, controlled more and did more than their counterparts back home.

"Inside of all of us there's an inherent fear of not going anywhere," said Midshipman 2nd Class John Strecher from Tulane University in New Orleans.

"Sometimes the ships are just hanging out at a pier in Norfolk (Va.)," Leary added.

Both served aboard the Curtis Wilbur and fired weapons including a mock Tomahawk. They visited Vietnam, something few current servicemen have done.

Midshipman 1st Class David Hodapp from the Naval Academy spent his cruise flying over Tokyo with HSL-51, a helicopter squadron based at Atsugi Naval Air Facility.

He flew far more than he expected.

"They had us up for all of 10 minutes before they handed over the controls and had us land," he said.

Back home, his brother, another Navy Academy cadet, spent his cruise floating down the eastern seaboard looking at not very much, Hodapp said.

"He's just insanely jealous."

Learning the ropes

The midshipmen during their college summers. For the first, they participate in CORTAMID, or career orientation and training for midshipmen, a quick introduction to the Navy, spending a week on each of the Navy's platforms: ships, submarines, aviation and the Marine Corps.

The second summer, they participate in a three-week cruise, paired with an enlisted petty officer.

"They integrate you into the ship's activities," said Midship-



LAMEL J. HINTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. Navy midshipmen enjoy the view from 'vultures' row as Carrier Air Wing 5 Super Hornets get ready to launch and land on the Kitty Hawk flight deck. From left are Tyler Croft, Frederick Espy, Michael Garcia, Daniel Tischler, Christopher Pratt and Jason Mason.

Leading the way

man 2nd Class Eric Burtnett-Abt, from the University of Idaho.

"You get to see what just about every rate (job) does."

The second year is critical, said Lt. David Parker, NKOTC advisor at the University of California at Berkeley who assisted the program in Yokosuka, Japan, this summer.

"They get to see what it takes to be a follower before they get to be a leader."

For the final summer, midshipmen are paired with a junior officer.

"Without these cruises we wouldn't have the faintest idea what we're doing when we get here," Leary said. "Part of the training made me realize what I've got to go back and study."

The midshipmen learned you can bump your head on just about everything on a ship, plans often go awry and chief petty officers are the go-to guys.

The midshipmen praise the amount of responsibility they're given — more, generally, than counterparts in the States.

Despite the glowing experience of many, midshipmen know they aren't always appreciated.

They take up valuable space, especially in submarines where beds, or racks, are in short supply. Their inexperience renders them helpless observers.

They could, and some do, spend the entire cruise lounging around. It's called being a rack monster.

"On the smaller ships you get noticed more. On a bigger ship you fall through the cracks," Burtnett-Abt said.

"Some people treat it like a summer vacation," Leary said. "There's a lot of personal responsibility."

The program's success comes from the command, Parker said.

A motivated commander, executive officer, command master chief or liaison officer can all make the difference, helping midshipmen adjust, encouraging the crew to support them and involving them in activities.

"It really boils down to the [leadership]," Parker said. "If you have a good command, it makes a big difference."

Cmdr. Eric Patten, commander of HSL-51, made sure the midshipmen visiting his squadron had plenty of experience flying and seeing what military life is all about.

"Not only to see what it's like to be in the military but to be a military member here in Japan," he said.

When Patten was a midshipman in San Diego, he only flew once, he said. He hoped to give the new generation more experience.

"It's so much better [than in the States]. We get an opportunity to go out here and see what Japan is like," Hodapp said.

Visiting Japan, flying around Tokyo and sailing to foreign ports is exciting. But the skills they learn are essential, Parker said.

"Shooting guns is fun, but the most valuable thing they can learn is how to be a good officer no matter where they go."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@spjpress.osd.mil

On Kitty Hawk, the art of staying out of the way

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

For the past several days, 17 college students have been roaming around the USS Kitty Hawk, through the warren of hatches and hallways and up and down the hundreds of steep staircases called ladders.

They've been down in engineering and up on the flight deck. They've stood watch, seen Super Hornets roar off and roar back onto the ship — and heard them do the same directly over their heads in rattling quarters one deck below the flight deck.

They've gotten lost, started to wander out onto the flight deck without the proper protective gear, and worried frequently they were in the way.

"I don't know who they perceive us," said Yuval Fleming, a senior at the University of Colorado and midshipman in Navy ROTC, referring to sailors and aviators on the ship. "The only thing we can do is mess stuff up. I just try to stay out of people's way."

"They expect us to get lost," added Jason Mason, from Miami University in Ohio. "They'll lead us back."

The midshipmen, from academies and ROTC programs across the United States, are spending nearly three weeks aboard the carrier to get a hint of what life at sea is like and a look at all the jobs that might be theirs after they become commissioned officers. And for many, the time aboard is helping them make a major life decision: Will they be aviators or ship drivers?

Aviators, on the one hand, are undeniably cool, seem to have a lot of fun, always sit together in the wardroom and may even have nicer, softer overalls, Fleming noticed. "It's almost like a fraternity," he said.

Ship drivers — carriers, at least — work tremendously long hours in often uncomfortable conditions to support the aviators, in weapons systems, engineering and navigation.

One officer, an aviator who declined to be named, suggested to the midshipmen to think of it this way: You have a frosty mug of beer. And you have an old rusty nail.

You drink down the frosty beer. That's what being an aviator is like.

"Then you take the rusty nail and poke it in your eye," the aviator told the midshipmen.

That's what being a ship driver is like.

But then, not all ships are carriers, designed to support the aviators, the midshipmen noted.

And smaller ships provide a more traditional seafaring life

than that on the carrier — a vast floating city with an airport on top — including more visits to more exotic foreign ports.

"On a small ship you can go on one hatch and you're 15 feet from the water," said Cmdr. Joe Klein, surface operations officer, who plans the deployments of all 10 ships in the Kitty Hawk strike group. "Like what inspired people in 'Master and Commander.'"

"You can see the sea. You can smell it. It's not about being on a carrier, for us."

And surface warfare officers get to land sooner. "I had 12 people working for me as an ensign. As a lieutenant junior grade, I had 30 people working for me," Klein said.

Some of the midshipmen already had decided their paths. Mason, who spent five years as an enlisted sailor on submarines, was most intrigued with the ship's command information center, where one can see the "whole battle picture. That's what I'm in it for," he said. "I'm in it for the action."

Tyler Croft, from the University of Washington, already is thinking ahead to his post-Navy career, after the required four years of service. Aviators must serve years longer to repay their extra training. "I was thinking of getting on a cruise ship later," Croft said.

After a leisurely Sunday brunch, the group clambered up stairs, down hallways and through hatches to check out Vultures' Row, a primary flight operations viewing spot. The group watched numerous Super Hornets roar off the runway and into the sky.

But Daniel Tischler was going to try for something even more exciting. He'd run into a pilot who told him to stop by the ready room, he said, and maybe he could get a ride a Seahawk helicopter. "They'll probably say 'no,' but who knows?" Tischler said.

Lt. Brook DeWalt, ship spokesman, said on such a giant ship, more than 5,000 people aboard, and one in which foreign navies, visiting dignitaries and a variety of civilians are often streaming through, 17 midshipmen go more or less unnoticed by the majority of the sailors.

DeWalt said having the midshipmen aboard is part of the responsibility to grow the Navy's leadership. "We have to. And Lt. Cmdr. John Bernard, spokesman for the Kitty Hawk strike group, once a midshipman himself, said they were a pleasure to have aboard. "It's fun to watch them get lost," he said.

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Fighting resumes in Najaf after talks fail

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN
AL-OBEDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — U.S. tanks and troops rolled back into the center of Najaf on Sunday to confront Shiite militants, sparking gunfights and explosions in a new wave of battles in this holy city after the collapse of cease-fire talks.

The renewed fighting in Najaf cast a pall over Sunday's opening of the National Conference, a gathering of more than 1,000 delegates from across Iraq seen as a key step toward democracy in the country.

Hours after the conference opened, insurgents fired a barrage of mortars that hit a commuter bus station in central Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 17 others, according to the Health Ministry.

The barrage apparently targeted

ed the capital's Green Zone, the heavily protected neighborhood where the conference is taking place but instead hit the station, which was left littered with glass, shrapnel and blood.

Also in Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier hours before the conference began.

In the volatile Sunni city of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, U.S. warplanes bombed three neighborhoods Sunday afternoon, killing five civilians and wounding six others, said, Dr. Adil Khamsi, of Fallujah General Hospital.

Dozens of explosions from tank shells and mortars as well as constant small arms fire shook Najaf's vast cemetery, where fighters from al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militias have been battling U.S. troops amid the tombs since the violence first broke out here Aug. 5.

U.S. troops rolled into the area

around Najaf's Old City, the Mahdi Army's stronghold, in the morning hours. The new fighting ended the quiet that the city had seen since Friday as truce talks were underway.

An explosion, believed to be from a tank round, landed near the outer wall of the compound housing the revered Imam Ali Shrine, the militants' informal headquarters and Iraq's holiest Shiite site, said al-Sadr aide Ahmed al-Shabany. "The shrine was not hit," he said.

Any damage to the shrine itself would further enrage Iraq's Shiite majority, already angry at the fighting here, and swell anger at Allawi's government.

Three days of negotiations to end the standoff fell apart Saturday, when government negotiators called the talks fruitless.

Al-Sadr representatives said the sides had agreed on a cease-fire deal before Allawi personally intervened to quash it.

As the explosions and gunfire rang out through Najaf on Sunday, police ordered all journalists to leave the city or face arrest.

The order would mean that the only news coverage of the violence in the holy city would be provided by reporters embedded with the U.S. military. The U.S. military estimates hundreds of insurgents have been killed since the clashes broke, but the militants dispute the figure. Six Americans have been killed, along with about 20 Iraqi officers, it said.

During the negotiations to end the fighting, al-Sadr demanded a U.S. withdrawal from Najaf, the freeing of all Mahdi Army fighters in detention and amnesty for all the fighters in exchange for disarming his followers and pulling them out of the shrine and Najaf's old city, aides said.

But on Saturday, Iraq's National Security Advisor Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie announced the talks

were over and left Najaf Late Sunday. Cabinet minister Wael Abdel-Latif said there would be no compromise with the militants, and he demanded they drop their weapons, get out of the city and transform themselves into a political party to avoid a major offensive against them.

In other violence Sunday, a Ukrainian patrol commander, Capt. Yuri Ivanov, was killed in a land mine explosion near Suwayrah, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Baghdad, said Lt. Col. Artur Domanski, a Polish military spokesman.

Also, a Dutch military policeman was killed and five others seriously wounded during violence Saturday in the southern city of Rumaythah, the Dutch Defense Ministry said Sunday.

In a separate incident in Rumaythah, al-Sadr militants fought with police in a battle that killed two people, including one policeman, said Dr. Mohammed al-Khasrani, a hospital official.

Iraqi national conference held despite violence, tight security

BY JAMIE TARABAY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Despite the steady clang of mortar shells outside and persistent violence in the country, many delegates at the opening on Sunday of Iraq's National Conference held out hope that this first Iraqi taste of democracy would succeed.

The three-day conference is an unprecedented forum for Iraqis of all ethnic and religious groups to discuss their visions for the future of this country, which is struggling with a Sunni insurgency, a renewed uprising by Shiite militants and constant sabotage attacks on its reconstruction efforts.

The 1,300 religious, political and civic leaders will help elect a 100-member national council to act as a watchdog over the interim government ahead of elections scheduled for January.

That, U.N. and U.S. officials hope, will bring more of Iraq's many factions behind the government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — strengthening it in the eyes of many skeptical Iraqis.

One major conflict that threatened to overshadow the conference was the resurgence of violence Sunday in the holy city of Najaf, where dissident Shiite

cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his followers have battled U.S. and Iraqi troops since Aug. 5.

Nadim al-Jadari, of the Shiite Political Council, sprang onto the stage after the opening speeches and threatened to withdraw unless negotiations to end the Najaf fighting resumed.

But other delegates dismissed the notion of abandoning the conference.

A walkout by even a small fraction of the delegates would be a symbolic blow to the government as it tries to project a carefully crafted message of inclusion to Iraqis of different ethnic and religious groups.

Organizers worked quickly to assuage complaints by forming a new working committee to find a peaceful solution to Najaf.

The gathering was held under intense security precautions in the fortified Green Zone enclave in Baghdad.

In January, Iraq is to hold elections to choose a transitional government. The newly elected government then will convene a national convention to draft a constitution to be put to the voters in October 2005. Iraqis will then hold another vote in December 2005 for a constitutionally based government.



Members of the national conference, from left to right, Sheikh Khalid al-Shamari, Dr. Midhat Adulamin al-Juburi and Dr. Midhat Abdul Nabi take part in the opening of the three-day national conference intended to bring a taste of democratic debate to Iraq on Sunday.

Italy gets terror message

A statement released Sunday in the name of an al-Qaida-linked group said the Italian government has "dug its grave by its own hands" after it ignored a warning to withdraw its troops from Iraq by Aug. 15.

The statement, signed by the Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigades, said any target in Italy is valid for militants because the European country did not withdraw its approximately 3,000 troops from Iraq.

However, there was no way to ascribe the statement, which appeared on an Islamic Web site known as a clearinghouse for militant-related material. On its own site, Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigades has denied giving the Aug. 15 ultimatum to Italy.

matum to Italy.

Navy rescues 6 Iranians

The U.S. Navy has rescued six Iranian sailors from a ship that was found drifting and taking water in the Gulf, a Navy spokesman said Sunday.

The crew of the Naji, an Iranian vessel, were winched onto helicopters from the USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier on Saturday, Lt. Bill Speaks of the Navy's 5th Fleet said.

The sailors received medical attention and a meal. Later Sunday they were transferred to a second U.S. warship, which handed them over to an Iranian civilian ship that was sailing in the international waters of the Gulf,

said Speaks.

Journalists told to leave

Iraqi police ordered all journalists to leave the holy city of Najaf on Sunday, just as a new U.S. offensive against militants hiding out in a revered shrine there began.

Four police cars surrounded a hotel in the city where journalists were staying and presented the order signed by Najaf's police chief, Brig. Ghaleb al-Jazani.

The order would mean that the only news coverage of the ongoing violence in Najaf, one of the most revered cities to Shiite Muslims, would be provided by reporters embedded with the U.S. military.

From The Associated Press

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IN THE STATES

Fla. residents take in Charley's aftermath

BY BRENDAN FARRINGTON

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — As the remnants of Hurricane Charley disintegrated off the New England coast on Sunday, Florida residents began the massive task of cleaning up from a storm that state officials estimated caused damage as high as \$11 billion for insured homes alone.

Florida officials raised the death toll attributed to Charley from 13 to 16. No details on the additional deaths were immediately released.

Lenida Capener, who fled her home on Easy Street in Port Charlotte as the storm approached, returned to find it completely destroyed.

"You can go from house to house, it's all this way," she said as she picked up a pillowcase, one of the few things on her lawn she could find that was not ruined.

Chad Maxwell shoveled up soggy ceiling tiles and shattered glass Sunday from the floor of the real estate office where he works in Punta Gorda. Looking at the coffee shop next door, which lost its second floor, and a florist with only one wall standing, he described his impression of downtown "Beirut."

"It looks like a bomb zone. Everything's gone. Everything's tore up," he said.

The Rev. Leroy Martin set up two dozen chairs and laid Bibles on them outside his small Punta Gorda church, unsure whether the darkened building was safe for services.

"I guess it is at a time like this when you realize the significance of spiritual values when everything else has blown away," Martin said.

The hardest-hit areas appeared to be Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte in Charlotte County, though the Federal Emergency Management Agency declared 25 counties eligible for disaster aid after the worst hurricane to hit Florida in a dozen years.

As a weakened Charley churned up the East Coast and was downgraded Sunday to



A crumpled Cessna airplane sits upside down against a building Sunday morning at the Port Charlotte Airport in Port Charlotte, Fla. Hurricane Charley flipped several planes at the airport.

a tropical depression, emergency officials pronounced it the worst hurricane to wallop Florida since Hurricane Andrew tore through in 1992. Twenty-six deaths were directly linked to Andrew, which caused \$19.9 billion in insured property losses.

The luxury vacation haven of North Captiva Island, which can be reached only by air and boat, was divided in two by Charley's storm surge, creating a new inlet that appears to be several hundred yards long. Lee County spokesman Pat O'Rourke said. The island's main road was submerged, but the extent of damage to homes was not determined.

State officials said it was impossible to estimate the number of missing people, and downed power lines and debris made the

task of searching for bodies "tedious and dangerous," said Mike McHargue, director of investigations for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

An initial damage estimate of \$5 billion to \$11 billion was based on the value of homes and insurance policies in the storm's path, said Tami Torres, a spokeswoman for the state Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher. Uninsured homes, business losses and damage to automobiles were not included.

Thirty-one mobile-home parks in Charlotte County sustained major damage, some with more than 1,000 units, said Bob Carpenter, a sheriff's spokesman. He said teams were sent to each park to search for bodies and survivors, but "we just couldn't get the vehicles in — there is so much debris."

In hurricane's wake, memories haunt survivors

BY ALLEN G. BREED

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — When Cindy Vallier returned home Saturday after Hurricane Charley, the bodies of the old couple across the road were lying in her front yard, covered in blankets.

Starting at the old man's black wheelchair and twisted warlock wedged under her husband's upturned truck, Vallier wonders how she can bear to move back to Crystal Lake mobile home park.

"Every time I walk down here, there's two dead people in my driveway," she said, envisioning the memory that will haunt her.

She surveyed the twisted wreckage engulfing her home. It was what is left of her dead neighbors' doublewide trailer.

Crystal Lake, like much of Punta Gorda, is a scene of utter devastation. But like so many in this blessed and cursed part of Florida, Vallier knows she has no choice but to start again where she was.

"That was our home, that was our rental, that was our work truck," the 53-year-old disabled cleaning woman said, ticking off her list of ruined possessions.

Vallier's neighbors were among four known deaths in this Charlotte County town nestled along the Gulf of Mexico. The victims' names were not immediately being released.

Vallier said the dead couple's grown son was thrown from the wreckage and was injured. He was found inside a closet of the trailer next door.

Vallier had cleaned home for the old woman many years ago, and she remembered the lady always tipped her. Vallier's husband, Clint Comstock, would sometimes help the old man, who was crippled with diabetes.

Vallier said the elderly couple had moved away from Punta Gorda to be closer to family. But they moved back about four months ago, because this was where the old man wanted to die.

"He got his wish," she said.

Vallier's husband, who owns a tree-removal company, was too busy for sorrow.

He plans to rebuild on the same spot. And, unlike his wife, he doesn't think he'll be haunted.

"Life goes on," he said. "You've just got to get on with it, that's all."

Bush visits hurricane damage sites

BY DEB REICHMANN

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Marine One flew low over demolished houses, downed power lines and uprooted palm trees here Sunday to give President Bush a bird's eye view of the destruction caused when Hurricane Charley roared through this southwest Florida city.

"A lot of people's lives are turned upside down," Bush said, standing next to his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, on a residential street in Punta Gorda.

Bush visited the state to assess the damage two days after declaring Florida a major disaster area. State officials said early estimates of the hurricane's residential property damage ranged from \$5 billion to \$11 billion.

"We've got ice and water moving in, trailers for people to live in are moving in," Bush said, standing in the steamy, muggy heat.

"The state is providing security so that people can have peace of mind that their neighborhoods will be safe."

Bush said federal assistance was being rushed to the area. After Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in 1992, claiming 26 lives and causing nearly \$20 billion in insured property losses, there were complaints the federal assistance was deployed too slowly.

"We're moving a lot of aid very quickly," Bush said. "All I can tell you is that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) was on the ground yesterday morning and there's a lot of supplies surging this way."

Later, Bush's motorcade drove through downtown Punta Gorda, where buildings were missing roofs, fences were flattened and palm trees were already being cut into chunks for removal.

Asked whether his quick trip to Florida carried political undertones, Bush replied, "And if it didn't come, they would have said he should have been here more rapidly."

Bush stopped outside the green cinder block home of Gary Nickols.

"We were going to try to ride it out but the neighbors across the street said, 'You better get out of there.'"

Nickols said, adding that he escaped harm by staying inside a lock-up church.

"Nearly everybody here that I've talked to had evacuated, as the state asked them to do and therefore, the loss of life was minimized," Bush said. "Still, too many people lost their lives, but nevertheless, it was not as significant as it could have been."

House Democrat advises colleagues not to fight Goss nomination

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee warned fellow Democrats in the Senate on Sunday against fighting the nomination of Rep. Porter Goss as CIA director, saying it would be picking the wrong fight in this election year.

Democrats should ask tough questions

of Goss, R-Fla., at Senate confirmation hearings next month, but "my view is this is the wrong fight," Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"To get stuck in a fight about Porter Goss after tough questions are asked of Porter Goss is not where we want to be this fall," said Harman.

Goss resigned as chairman of the House intelligence panel last week after President Bush nominated him to replace George Tenet at CIA.

Harman said Congress should move swiftly to push through recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission, including creating a new national intelligence director.

Bush "missed an opportunity" for intelligence reform by nominating Goss as permanent CIA director, she said.

Many Democrats have criticized the selection of Goss, saying he is inappropriately partisan for a job that requires relating objective advice to policy makers in the executive and legislative branches.

IN THE WORLD

Koizumi promotes peace on anniversary of end of WWII

BY AUDREY MCAVOY

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Sunday marked the 59th anniversary of the end of World War II by vowing to pursue peace, even as four members of his Cabinet visited a war shrine Japan's neighbors say glorifies the country's aggressive past.

Nearly 2.5 million war dead, including executed war criminals, are worshipped at Yasukuni Shrine as deities. Koizumi sparked outrage in 2001, particularly in China and South Korea, when he visited the shrine just days before the Aug. 15 anniversary of the Japanese surrender.

The prime minister has since avoided visiting the shrine in August, although he goes to pay his respects every year. This year he entered the shrine's wooden halls on New Year's Day.

Such patronage has long been a flashpoint between Japan and its Asian neighbors, who still harbor bitter memories of Japan's militarist expansion in the region and view continued worship at the shrine as evidence Japan has yet to fully atone for past wrongs.

Nevertheless, on Sunday Koizumi's trade, agriculture, public safety, and environment ministers visited the controversial shrine.

A total of 58 other lawmakers stopped by the tree-lined grounds during the day.

Trade Minister Shioichi Nakagawa said he went to Yasukuni on Sunday to pay his respects.

"I thanked those that died and offered prayers for their peaceful rest," Nakagawa said.

Hundreds of others who lost relatives on the battlefield also stopped to pay, holding their heads bowed before an altar. Dozens later gathered in a courtyard to release white doves into the air in a symbol of peace.

Yoko Sekimoto, 56, said she vis-



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi bows Sunday during a government-sponsored memorial service in Tokyo as Japan marked the 59th anniversary of the end of World War II.

ited the shrine every year to pray for her uncle, a sailor in the war who died when his ship was attacked. She said she thought it was only natural that Koizumi visit Yasukuni.

"This is Japan's tradition. The Japanese people must show their gratitude and protect it," Sekimoto said.

A handful of octogenarians in World War II sailor uniforms

marched up to the main shrine hall in rhythm to the sound of beating trumpets, holding rifles and a Japanese Navy flag.

Meanwhile, Koizumi observed a moment of silence and laid flowers at a cemetery for the unknown war dead near the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. He also promised a crowd of several thousand at a ceremony in honor of those who lost their lives in the war that Japan would advance peace.



Students clash with riot police Sunday during an anti-U.S. and government rally in Seoul. More than 5,000 protesters took part in the rally against the government's decision to dispatch South Korean troops to Iraq. Protesters believed the decision involved U.S. influence.

War protesters clash with police in Seoul

The Associated Press

SEOUL — Hundreds of protesters clashed with police Sunday near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul during a demonstration against the country's plans to send more troops to Iraq.

"We are against war! We are against America!" the demonstrators chanted, ripping up a large replica of a U.S. flag before attempting to charge through police blockades. Officers in riot gear responded by spraying water at the demonstrators, who used flag poles to poke at police.

About 5,000 demonstrators attended, police said, converging on a street in the center of the South Korean capital to urge President Roh Moo-hyun to abandon the troop deployment.

"We are not foolish enough to

let the government dispatch troops to Iraq... We are not that ignorant," they sang during the rally.

Meanwhile, President Roh Moo-hyun warned Sunday against "blind opposition" to the United States.

"This attitude seems to reflect the thinking that the United States is responsible for all the past, present and future problems of the Republic," he said during a speech marking the anniversary of the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

This month, South Korea began sending 3,000 troops to northern Iraq to join 660 soldiers already stationed in the country's south.

The dispatch will make South Korea the biggest coalition partner after the United States and Britain.

Troops in Sudan

EL FASHER, Sudan — About 140 Rwandan soldiers arrived in Sudan's troubled Darfur region Sunday, becoming the first foreign armed force deployed in the Iraq-sized region since Arab militiamen began attacking black African farmers.

The Rwandan contingent was airlifted to Darfur to protect unarmed military observers monitoring a four-month cease-fire between Sudanese government forces and rebels.

The Rwandan troops are part of a 300-member African Union protection force Sudan was pressed to allow into Darfur, where thousands of civilians have been killed and more than a million forced from their homes.

From The Associated Press

Blast at India parade kills 15

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — A bomb exploded during an Independence Day parade in India's remote northeast Sunday, killing at least 15 people, including schoolchildren, while a rocket attack during a celebration at a school in the separatist region of Kashmir injured 17, officials said.

The attacks came as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pledged to fight terrorism during a speech at New Delhi's 17th century Red Fort, a tradition followed by each prime minister since India gained independence from two centuries of British colonial rule on Aug. 15, 1947.

"Such dastardly acts show the terrorists' disregard for innocent

lives. The perpetrators of such acts of violence will not be spared and the country's resolve to eliminate the scourge of terrorism remains unshaken," Singh said in a statement.

The powerful bomb went off on the grounds of a local college in Dhemaji, where the parade was being held, killing 15 people, local lawmaker Dilip Saikia said. Another explosion also took place in the nearby town of Dhakakhana. No casualties were reported.

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam, which had called for a boycott of Independence Day celebrations, was suspected of being behind the two attacks, Inspector General of Police Khagen Sharma said. The group has been fighting for a separate homeland since 1979.

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FACES 'N' PLACES

Oprah gets jury duty

Oprah Winfrey was expected to make an appearance at the Cook County, Ill., Criminal Court — for jury duty.

A spokeswoman for the talk-show host confirmed Friday that Winfrey would report Monday. She is scheduled to appear along with some 300 other prospective jurors. Cook County sheriff's office spokeswoman Sally Daly said Thursday.

Winfrey will not receive special treatment once she's inside the courtroom, but will be allowed to use an alternate entrance, Daly said.

If Winfrey isn't picked for a jury by the end of the day, she'll still receive a \$17.20 check from the court, said jury supervisor Allen Klein.

Roy's injuries evaluated

Nearly a year after being mauled by a tiger, illusionist Roy Horn of "Siegfried & Roy" was evaluated at a hospital that specializes in spinal cord and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation.

Dave Kirvin, a spokesman for Horn, declined to comment on how long Horn was expected to stay or what treatment he was receiving.

Horn arrived at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo., earlier this early last week and was being evaluated Thursday.

Horn was able to walk again in March, five months after being mauled by a 300-pound white tiger in Las Vegas. The tiger attacked him during a sold-out performance at The Mirage hotel-casino.

From the Associated Press



When bad boys turn good

Mark Wahlberg centered, devoted to his daughter

By TERRY MORROW

Scripts Howard Rosenberg

The evolution of actor Mark Wahlberg from bad boy to good man stems from the company he keeps.

At 33, the actor, rapper and former underwear model says he is centered, devoted to his faith and changing his partying ways. He's father to an 11-month-old girl, and shares custody with the mother, model Rhea Durham.

"Ah, there are no more pool parties with my buddies late at night," he says during an interview to promote "Entourage," a new cable-TV comedy he's producing that is based loosely on his early days of success in Hollywood.

"But that's a good thing. I needed something to straighten me out. I had a lot of fun, but I was lucky to get out alive."

"Entourage" is about a New York actor, played by Adrian Grenier, who suddenly finds fame and brings his best buddies with him to Hollywood, where they're all fishes out of water.

His entourage includes the sensible Eric (Kevin Connolly), the vain and dimwitted Johnny Drama (Kevin Dillon) and the party monster Turtle (Jerry Ferrara).

"We knew when we were making this show that Hollywood was the backdrop," says executive producer Doug Ellin. "At first people might see it as just another Hollywood show ... but you'll see it's really about friendship and about guys that could go anywhere."

Like the central character, Wahlberg made room for his hometown pals whom he invited to stay with him in Hollywood. Growing up in a household of nine children, Wahlberg says he's used to a full house. He doesn't like being alone.

Having a familiar entourage around was comforting, he says.

The character of Johnny Drama is based on a guy who was hired to be with Wahlberg back in his early days.

"He was hired by my brother to babysit me when I was recording my first album," Wahlberg says. "I had gotten out of jail myself and had a hard time adapting, like a lot of my friends, but I was given another chance."

Wahlberg looks back on his life now and sees how far he's come. The Boston native, raised in a low-income side of town, is not afraid to talk about selling drugs on the streets when he was 13.

He dropped out of high school

at age 14. (Later he got his Graduate Equivalency Degree.) And though a priest attempted to help him straighten out, Wahlberg didn't listen.

He got into fights after fight, was charged with misdemeanors and spent 50 days in prison for a robbery gone bad. Life after prison changed him. His older brother, Donnie, already successful with the boy band New Kids on the Block, helped him focus him on a music career.

He couldn't sing, but he could rap. Add a DJ, dancers and back-up singers and suddenly he was Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch in the early 1990s.

Wahlberg's bad boy image was enhanced when he stripped to his underwear during concerts. This inspired designer Calvin Klein to use him in controversial ads, wearing next to nothing, on billboards hovering over Times Square.

He made headlines for being involved in fights and run-ins with other celebrities. The tabloids loved him, and the public remained faithful despite rumors he was homophobic and racist, labels he denies.

Friends of Wahlberg's who were not invited to Los Angeles felt spurned.

"Being famous complicates your friendships a lot," Wahlberg says.

"When I would go back home, people who never talked to me before suddenly wanted to become my friends. People who were my friends then I owed them something."

"It's awkward. . . I have been fortunate enough to see other people go through this before I did, and I was able to learn from what happened to them."

By the time the recording career went south and the ad campaign was over, Wahlberg was ready for the movies. In 1994, he made a critical splash in Penny Marshall's "Renaissance Man."

From there, he enhanced his acting résumé with "Boogie Nights," "Three Kings," "The Italian Job" and "Planet of the Apes."

Working in movies taught him how to handle hangers-on.

"When I became an actor, I worked with a lot of big actors, and I saw how they handled things," he says.

Wahlberg says his life changed when he became a father. It gave him perspective. He's also listening to that same priest who has tried to reform him since he was 13.

Today, his entourage includes a nanny, a priest and his mother.

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Rising interest rates as election year twist

Bucking usual politics, Bush casts hikes in positive light

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Going against conventional wisdom, the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates in an election year. And it is Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, a Republican, who is leading the charge even though an incumbent Republican in the White House is facing voter unrest about the state of the economy.

And in what is seemingly the strangest twist of all, President Bush and his economic team are not criticizing the moves, but rather are pointing to the rate hikes as a sign of economic strength. To demonstrate support for Greenspan, Bush renominated him for a fifth term just shortly before the rate increases began in June.

So what's going on? Many economists believe the younger Bush, mindful of his father's rocky relations with Greenspan, has gone out of his way to establish a cordial working relationship with the Fed chief. They also say times are different now.

Still, the economy has 1.1 million fewer jobs now than when Bush took office, allowing Sen. John Kerry, Bush's Democratic opponent, to contend that Bush's jobs record is the worst since Herbert Hoover. And while job growth did rebound to respectable levels earlier this year, job creation has nearly stalled out the past two months, with just 32,000 jobs created in July.

Yet when the Fed last Tuesday

Analysis

raised a key interest rate by a quarter-point, the administration's response was to say it respected the Fed's independence — a far different approach than the one taken by the elder Bush.

Bush's father blamed Greenspan for contributing to his defeat in 1992 by failing to cut interest rates quickly enough to generate a strong recovery before voters went to the polls.

The earlier Bush administration certainly tried to pressure the Fed to speed up its interest rate reductions in the year leading up to the 1992 election. At one point, Nicholas Brady, Bush's Treasury secretary, grew so annoyed with Greenspan that he abruptly cut off his weekly meetings with the Fed chief.

Such an effort was nothing unusual in the long history of often strained relations between the White House and the Federal Reserve.

One of the most famous incidents involved the legendary William McChesney Martin, the only Fed chairman to have served longer than Greenspan's 17 years. Martin was Fed chief from 1951 to 1970, a period spanning the terms of five presidents, from Harry Truman to Richard Nixon. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson summoned Martin to LBJ's Texas ranch to express his displeasure about a recent Fed rate hike. As part of the lobbying, Johnson took Martin on a jolting drive to Debarth McNaughton, president of Professional Credit Counselors. "The companies just see dollar signs for the future," she said. If a student gets hooked, he or she may continue to provide the credit-card company with business after graduation.

Paul Volcker, Greenspan's predecessor, was summoned to a

meeting with President Ronald Reagan and James A. Baker III, Reagan's chief of staff, in the White House library in the summer of 1984. Baker bluntly told Volcker, with Reagan looking on, that the administration did not want any increases in interest rates that might hurt Reagan's re-election chances.

"If you want to talk about class politics, that is about as crass as it gets," said David Jones, the author of four books on the Greenspan Fed.

In contrast, the current occupant of the White House made it a point to have his first meeting in Washington after winning the disputed Florida election in 2000 with Greenspan. Then in April 2003, more than a year before Greenspan's term was up, Bush announced that he planned to nominate him for a fifth term this year.

When the Fed announced June 30 that it was boosting interest rates for the first time in four years, the administration uttered not a word of criticism, but simply pointed out that a stronger economy often results in higher interest rates. After the second rate hike last Tuesday, the Bush campaign e-mailed out excerpts of the Fed's rate hike announcement and references to an expected rebound in growth.

Many economists believe Bush has adopted his predecessor, President Bill Clinton, as his role model on Fed relations.

During the Clinton administration, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, a Wall Street veteran, enforced a code of silence concerning Fed actions. The belief was that any perceived criticism would be counterproductive, worrying investors that the Fed might bend to pressure and not aggressively discharge its duties



Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has led the what-could-be unpopular charge to raise interest rates in 2004, despite the fact that it's an election year. Observers say President Bush has gone out of his way to maintain a smooth relationship with Greenspan, a Republican, and has even renominated him for a fifth term.

to keep inflation under control.

"For years and years, some degree of tension was standard operating procedure in White House-Fed operations. Clinton marks a real turning point in those relations," said Thomas Schlesinger, director of the Financial Markets Center, a Philomont, Va., research organization that specializes in studying the Fed.

But other economists said the Bush administration's hands are tied. With Bush running for re-election on the basis that the economy is growing stronger under his leadership, any criticism of the Fed for jeopardizing what is supposedly a solid recovery could backfire.

"The administration is in a bit

of a political bind. They can't complain about the Fed without saying the economy is doing poorly, something they don't want to say," Wyss said.

Many analysts said the Fed's steady, gradual approach to raising rates seemed to be just what is called for now, given that it's unclear how long the economic soft patch will last, and the fact that inflation pressures, aside from energy, have been largely dormant.

"The Fed doesn't want inflation to get away from them, but at the same time I think they want to be as supportive of the administration as they can," said Peter Morici, a business school professor at the University of Maryland.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 16)	108.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 14)	129.00
Euro	93.83
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	3,377.00
British pound	1,843.00
Canada (Dollar)	1,269.00
Denmark (Krone)	1,273.00
Egypt (Pound)	1,180.00
EUR	1,273.00
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7,788.00
India (Rupee)	302.80
Israel (Sheqel)	70.425
Italy (Lira)	1,936.00
Japan (Yen)	110.57
Korea (Won)	115.50
Norway (Krone)	6,751.00
Philippines (Peso)	55.80
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3,750.00
Singapore (Dollar)	1,242.00
S. Korea (Won)	115.50
Switzerland (Franc)	1,451.00
Thailand (Baht)	41.25
Taiwan (New Dollar)	1,470.25

Military exchange rates are available to customers at military banks in the country of issuance or to U.S. military personnel overseas. For non-U.S. military personnel, exchange rates for non-U.S. currencies are available only if they check with their local military bank. The rates are for U.S. dollars to local currencies provided for reference when the Fed raises rates. The rates are for U.S. dollars to local currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is in pounds to one dollar, and the euro, which is in dollars to one euro.

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$398.90
Silver	\$6.617

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
3-month bank discount rate	1.60
3-month bill	1.43
90-day bill	1.40

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Ready kids for credit

CBS MarketWatch
NEW YORK — Before your child leaves for college, impart some wisdom and information about the basics of credit.

Credit card companies inundate students with offers, according to Deborah McNaughton, president of Professional Credit Counselors. "The companies just see dollar signs for the future," she said. If a student gets hooked, he or she may continue to provide the credit-card company with business after graduation.

In turn, students may see a credit card as a "power card." McNaughton added, "They don't want to ask Mommy and Daddy, 'Can I use it?' The reality of the youngster's charges doesn't set in until the bill arrives. Teach your child to charge

only what he or she can afford. Have the young adult figure out how much she or he can pay per month, and then limit charges to that amount. To keep track, students need to write in a check registry or on an index card every time they charge something. To keep track, students need to write in a check registry or on an index card every time they charge something.

Even if your child is attending school on the other side of the country, you can help him or her avoid major financial mistakes. Arrange for a credit card linked to a bank account. You and your child can both fund the account, and spending is limited.

You also could set up a credit card for which you act as the primary account holder. This way, said McNaughton, you'll be the one getting the bills and controlling the expenses. Just don't go as far as co-signing a loan or credit card for your child.

President vs. Fed chiefs

Past incidents where presidents had differences with chairmen of the Federal Reserve:

■ **Lyndon Johnson:** The Federal Reserve, resisting heavy pressure from the Johnson administration, hiked interest rates in 1965 out of concerns that Johnson's "guns and butter" budgets with large spending on the Vietnam War and his Great Society programs would trigger inflation. Johnson invited Fed Chairman William McChesney Martin to the president's Texas ranch for a heavy dose of the "Johnson treatment" which included a rough and dusty ride around the ranch in Johnson's Lincoln Continental as Johnson lobbied Martin to rescind the rate increase. Martin stood his ground.

■ **Jimmy Carter:** In the heat of his losing 1980 re-election campaign, Carter complained that Paul Volcker's efforts to break the back of a decade-long inflationary spiral by pushing in-

terest rates higher was being accomplished in an "ill-advised" manner.

■ **Ronald Reagan:** Volcker was summoned to a White House meeting in the summer of 1984 with Reagan and James A. Baker III, then Reagan's chief of staff. As Reagan looked on, Baker bluntly told Volcker that the administration did not want any increases in interest rates that might hurt the president's re-election chances.

■ **George H.W. Bush:** Nicholas Brady, Bush's Treasury secretary, launched an aggressive lobbying effort to get the Fed to accelerate its interest rate cuts to help pull the country out of the 1990-91 recession. But in March 1992, frustrated that the Fed was not cutting rates quickly enough, Brady canceled his weekly meetings with Greenspan. Bush would later blame his 1992 election defeat on the Fed's reluctance to lower rates more quickly.

— The Associated Press

STARS AND STRIPES

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Women just as aware of risks

In reference to the Aug. 6 letter by Wil Clayton of Nebraska "Sending women to war is wrong": The USA is not the only nation that uses women in battle. Granted the women are not directly involved in a combat arms job, but in a combat zone the enemy doesn't pick its targets based on race or color of skin or gender. The British army has women in the military and as well as the Canadians. The women know the risks of joining the military when they sign on the dotted line, and if they don't, then some one set them up for failure.

Sp. Matthew Copeland
Katterbach, Germany

Press doesn't lie to parrots

The following is a quote from an analysis written by a Washington Post staff writer and published in The Post's A2 12 edition: "As violence continues in post-war Iraq and U.S. forces have yet to discover any WMDs, some critics say the press, including The Washington Post, failed the country by not reporting more skeptically on President Bush's intentions during the run-up to war."

If The Post admits to failing to be skeptical of the administration before March 2003, how can anybody in the right mind (no pun intended) give an ounce of credit to Fox News? How can anybody possibly even suggest there is liberal bias in the media?

On the contrary, media that is skeptical, even critical of the administration, is just fulfilling its role as the watchdogs of government. The free press is what keeps politicians in line. Beware of a press that parrots the agenda of politicians, for that press is no longer free, but becomes merely a tool to be manipulated and used to manipulate others.

The press has an obligation to be skeptical of government, and you, the citizen, have an obligation to think.

Master Sgt. Michael J. Frank
Osan Air Base, South Korea

How do any TVs get sold?

I don't buy Stephen P. Malone's argument that if you put a plasma screen TV in a household goods shipment you can assume it will be ruined ("Buy before you put a plasma TV ...", letter, Aug. 13).

Where does Malone think the TVs come from? Is there a television production facility in the back room of every exchange? Of course not. The TVs are made in a factory (probably somewhere in Asia) and are shipped to retail outlets all over the world, and sometimes they arrive in working order. Have you ever seen how a household goods move is handled? Your possessions are placed in great big plywood crates that are moved with forklifts. Your TV isn't tossed around like luggage at the airport.

Doonesbury

WE DO SEE ONE NAZIER
VULNERABILITY, POPPY.
EVER SINCE NAZIS
BROUGHT RUSSIA TO POW-
ER, IT'S BEEN AIN'T
A SUPPORTER

WE THINK IF WE INTERVIEW
EARLY ENOUGH, WE CAN KEEP
NAZIERS FROM VOTING
AGAIN, BUT THEY TEND TO
VOTE IN THE SHADOWS AND
ARE HARD TO LOCATE!

WHEN WE DO
SPOT ONE, WE
HAVE TO USE
STRENGTH TO
TAKE THEM
ONE!

HELLO, THERE!
I MEAN YOU
NO NAZIS!

Nazier?
Who's
there?



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I don't own a plasma TV — and I doubt if I ever will if they are as sensitive to temperature changes as Mr. Malone asserts. In Misawa most homes are not air-conditioned and we have experienced a hot summer. Am I to believe that everyone who bought a plasma TV in Misawa is out \$4,000? If I decide to move my household goods myself I will have to buy a new TV? Once I place the TV in the living room am I stuck with that placement for the life-time of the TV?

Gee, I wonder why the Army and Air Force Exchange Service didn't rush out and tell customers not to buy their perfectly good merchandise? It must be some kind of conspiracy. Give me a break.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ron Heppner
Misawa, Japan

Telling what Kerry didn't say

As a 25-year veteran, it was with great interest that I read Stripes reporter Patrick Dickson's interview with candidate John Kerry ("Kerry discusses his vision for military," Aug. 9). Everyone in the military should take a keen interest in the commander in chief as well as any potential nemesis in command in chief. As one who works in the media/public affairs area, I also understand the editorial need for clarity, especially in transcribing oral interviews. For that reason Mr. Dickson's use of the ellipsis ("...") and parenthetical ("in Iraq") in one of Mr. Kerry's responses caught my eye.

As the ellipsis is used to bridge an editorial omission and the parenthetical to clarify, I decided to suspend my suspicions and read the transcript online (<http://stripes.com/2004election/kerry.html>) before jumping to any conclusions. Sure enough, the ellipsis covered a modest or slight clarification of Mr. Kerry's targeted goal, and the parenthetical "in Iraq" was never truly clarified to specify

"Iraq" in either Mr. Kerry's reply or in Mr. Dickson's question.

Patrick Dickson: So you can guarantee that we'll have a substantially reduced force within a year? Two years?

From the published paper: Kerry: I can guarantee that ... within my first term, I will have a substantial reduction in troops (in Iraq), yes.

And from the transcript: Kerry: I can guarantee that the goal is in my first term — that within my first term I will have a substantial reduction in troops, yes.

The meaning is completely different without the editorial alteration. Nowhere does Mr. Kerry specify reduction only in Iraq. In fact, Mr. Dickson never even phrases the question to include only Iraq. I believe, true to the Democratic Party's historic record in regards to the military, Mr. Kerry envisioned a total military strength cut — he said what he meant without Stripes' editorial alteration.

Having served under five presidents, both Republicans and Democrats, I can remember the declining morale of the Carter and Clinton years, the emasculation of our military, cutbacks in training and repair parts, the budget and manning cuts that increased mishaps and deployments on military humanitarian "feed-the-world" missions. I expect having John Kerry as our commander in chief would only lead to more of the same. While the military would not like to sway the outcome of this year's election, military voters need to ask themselves two things: Do they really want to go back to those underfunded, unprepared and overextended days of Carter and Clinton and would they really be comfortable serving under a man who lied to a Senate committee about atrocities in Vietnam, threw his medals or ribbons away and a woman who was not even voted against every program or bill designed to assist, enhance or improve the lives of our military?

Chief Petty Officer William F. Gowy

Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan

Thanks for 2nd ID coverage

As the parents of a 2nd Infantry Division soldier, my wife, Tina, and I would like to thank Stars and Stripes for its coverage of the training, preparations and arrival of the soldiers who are now in Kuwait. We especially liked the interview with Maj. Gen. John Wood, 2nd ID commander, explaining the training process and the quotes attributed to him later as he gave each one of his soldiers a handshake and good word as they boarded the planes that would take them to their new mission.

We appreciate Stripes' efforts to give us a glimpse into what our son and all of our brave sons and men are going through in the service of our country. We salute Stripes, as well as the men and women of the 2nd ID. God bless each of you.

Mike Whitaker

Chromona, Ky.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Veterans' voices will let voices be heard

Two young Army officers with time in Iraq are the brains behind a new Web site called Operation Truth that will be launched later this month.

Former Capt. David Chasteen and 1st Lt. Paul Rieckhoff, who is still serving in the Army National Guard, hope to "educate the American public about the truth of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from the perspective of the soldiers who have experienced them first-hand."

Toward that end they hope that their Web site, www.optruth.org, will provide a forum for soldiers and Marines still serving in Iraq or just returned, to tell their stories, post their digital photos and voice their complaints.

Chasteen, a native of Muncie, Ind., and Rieckhoff, a native of New York City, said Operation Truth is a nonprofit soldiers' advocacy organization and is nonpartisan, nonpolitical and not affiliated with any candidate. But, like the soldiers they hope will post on their Web site, they have more than a few bones to pick with those in charge of the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rieckhoff told me, "This is just a big, After Action Review. After an operation in the military we sit down and talk it over. What was good, what was bad and how do we fix what was bad? The only people who ought to be afraid are those who have screwed up."

Both Chasteen, a chemical and biological

war specialist, and Rieckhoff, a Guard infantry officer, served with the 3rd Infantry Division in the attack that took Baghdad.

What they know is that today's all-volunteer military is made up of a very small part of America's population. Most Americans don't know anyone in uniform and no one in their family has served in the last generation or two.

"The dialogue between soldiers and the people they serve is gone, and we want to restart it," Rieckhoff said. "If the majority of Americans are content to be protected and defended by a small minority of volunteer soldiers then they need to pay attention to those soldiers and take care of them and their families."

Although it is nonpartisan, Operation Truth and the issues it wants to debate before the American people are likely to cause the Bush administration some heartburn. Their brochure says, "We intend to publicize how poorly planned policies and approaches have manifested themselves as problems on the front lines and back at home. We will aid domestically to protect our troops and to aid them in their fight to protect us."

Some of the issues they hope veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan will sound out in include:

■ **Stop loss:** [It] is, Operation Truth says, a back-door draft, "a Band-aid solution implemented to provide additional troop strength." They say stop loss is destroying the concept of a volunteer military, damaging to morale and "yet another indication that the original plan for war was flawed."

■ **The role of private contractors in combat zones:** Operation Truth says that companies such as Halliburton, KBR and Blackwater are weakening the military by draining away some of the most experienced



war-fighters with offers of much higher wages and better benefits. They add that introducing profit to the battlefield sets a bad precedent.

■ **The Department of Veterans Affairs:** The VA budget will be cut nearly \$1 billion by the administration in the fiscal year 2006 budget. In addition the VA is closing or drastically reducing services at 11 VA hospitals. Further, Operation Truth says that some 572,000 veterans are believed to be owed disability pensions but are unaware they are owed the money and no effort is being made to inform them.

The two also hope to press for improved national support systems for National Guard and Reserve soldier families. Those families need the same network of support and services the Army provides active-duty troops and their families.

These young American veterans, both in their 20s, raise valid issues and solid questions as they prepare to launch a Web site that could just as well be named *The Voice of the Soldier*.

Joseph L. Galloway is the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers and co-author of the national best-seller "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young."

Putting a finger on electromagnetic-pulse threat

BY JACK SPENCER

Do you know that one missile, properly targeted, could degrade the electronic grid of the entire continental United States? Do you also know that even North Korea has weapons capable of doing this?

Here's how it would work. Rather than target the warhead at land, enemies deliver their payloads from 25 to 300 miles above the Earth's surface. There, radiation from a nuclear explosion would interact with air molecules to produce high-energy electrons that speed across the earth's magnetic field as an instantaneous, invisible electromagnetic pulse. Such an explosion would release a pulse strong enough to disrupt power grids, electronic systems and communications over the lower 48.

The United States never has prepared for this threat because experts long assumed it wouldn't matter. An EMP attack, the theory goes, would come as a precursor to a full-scale nuclear exchange with our Cold War nemesis, the Soviet Union. At that point, the state of the power grid would be the least of our problems.

But today, we must consider a giant electromagnetic pulse as a significant threat on its own. The congressional Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack calls EMP "one of a small number of threats that has the potential to hold our society seriously at risk and might result in defeat of our military forces." A scientist who has studied the issue says an effective EMP attack could set back countries dependent on 21st century technology by 100 years or more.

The commission's report stressed that the United States needs to figure out who, among both states and nonstate actors, is ca-

pable of launching such an attack. Also, we need to know where we are most vulnerable, how we'd recover from such an attack and what it would take to protect our military and civilian systems.

Our military needs to retrofit some equipment to resist such attacks and insist that more new purchases come EMP attack-proof. Of course, the best defense against an EMP attack would be an effective missile-defense system that intercepts the missile before it reaches the United States.

It won't be easy, and it will be costly. Protecting electronics infrastructure requires that entire systems be encased in a metallic shield. Antennae and power connections must be equipped with surge protectors, windows must be coated with wire mesh or conductive coating and doors must be sealed with conductive gaskets.

Fiber-optic cable is not vulnerable to EMP, so it's in our interest to replace as much copper cable with fiber-optic as possible. We also need to protect the switches and controls that guide microelectronics in conjunction with fiber-optic cable.

In the future, such protections can be engineered into these products and structures, at an added cost of 1 percent to 5 percent of the price.

One step the United States can take for free is to develop a policy — and publicize it — that it would respond with devastating effect against anyone that launches an EMP strike. We also should ensure that portions of our military are protected against EMP, field active defenses (such as a missile shield) and passive defenses (such as switching to fiber-optic where possible) to reduce the damage done by such an attack and increase the risk for a would-be aggressor.

Hopefully, these changes, taken together, would deter anyone from launching such an attack.

We should make it a priority to develop a plan not only to respond to such an attack but to recover as quickly as possible — and do so soon. All over the world, countries are attempting to join the nuclear club. Most would not be considered America's allies. Failure to address this significant vulnerability only encourages leaders already hostile to us to attempt to exploit this weakness.

There is real danger here. The technology that makes us the leader among the world's nations only makes us more vulnerable. We're unprepared now. That needs to change.

Jack Spencer is a senior policy analyst for defense and national security in the Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



No naked cheering

FL GAINESVILLE — University of Florida's cheerleading coach was fired after he gave the squad permission to promote more than school pride at a cheerleading camp.

Gene Moore, 39, said he was unfairly terminated for allowing squad members to wear T-shirts that listed "10 Reasons to Cheer Naked." He was fired after the University Athletic Association received complaints about the shirts. The firing leaves the squad without a coach three weeks before the first football game.

Moore had been coach for five years, making \$19,000 a year.

The squad was attending a college cheerleading camp this week in Myrtle Beach, S.C., when a couple of cheerleaders distributed the T-shirts for Spirit Day. Members traded shirts with cheerleaders from other schools.

"Yes, I was aware of it and, yes, it was a mistake," Moore said. "I don't feel like firing me over it after I've put in five years was justified."

Mike Hill, the University Athletic Association assistant director for external affairs, confirmed Moore's termination but declined to elaborate, saying it was a personnel matter.

Hate crimes award

CT DERBY — A former Milford couple was ordered to pay more than \$11,000 in hate crimes lawsuit. A jury awarded the money to the interracial family of Tarvis Simms, who accused their white neighbors Wilfred and Michelle Chaisson of using racial slurs and making death threats. The suit was filed nine months after the Chaissons were sentenced to two years of probation for harassing the family. This time the Chaissons were ordered to move out of town and attend diversity education classes.

Meeting minority goals

WI MADISON — The stadium district overseeing the Lambeau Field reconstruction met state-imposed goals for hiring women and minorities for the project, according to a report. The Legislative Audit Bureau report also found the district met goals for awarding contracts to businesses owned by women and minorities. The \$295 million renovation of the Green Bay Packers' stadium was completed last summer.

Even bad guys can vote

MT HELENA — A husband-and-wife team from Bozeman is traveling the state to register convicted felons to vote. Casey Rudd and husband Eddie Rudd run Connections, a re-entry program for former inmates. A survey by the program last year showed that many people do not know felons can vote once they're out of prison.

Connections received a federal grant of \$5,000 this year as part of the Help America Vote Act education campaign.

Stenographers' victory

NH MANCHESTER — A judge has ruled that 15 stenographers working in the superi-



or courts can't be fired while their lawsuit is pending against the state Supreme Court.

The stenographers, who use special typewriters to take down every word of court proceedings, sued the high court to prevent the state from replacing them with tape recorders.

They argue that past judges have promised that wouldn't happen.

A judge recently dismissed the lawsuit, but said he would delay the firings if the case was appealed. A lawyer for the stenographers said the case will be brought before the Supreme Court.

Cross-state pollution

OK LAKE TEXOMA — Air pollution from Texas is causing some Oklahoma counties to have poor air quality, according to an American Lung Association report. State and federal environmental officials say poor air quality readings in Jefferson and Marshall counties are caused by smog carried from the Dallas area by southerly winds. Officials say only Oklahoma counties do meet federal clean air standards.

Wrongfully imprisoned

PA PHILADELPHIA — A death row inmate who spent 22 years in prison before a DNA test exonerated him in a rape and murder case filed a lawsuit accusing detectives and prosecutors of withholding evidence



Reflections

Maxine Sugarman, 11, left, gets a sailing lesson from her father, Michael, while the pair takes a spin around Foy's Lake in Kalspell, Mont.

that could have set him free.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for the time Nicholas Yarris spent behind bars before genetic testing cleared him in the 1981 death of a Delaware County woman. Yarris' attorney earlier indicated he was seeking \$22 million.

It alleges authorities purposely hid evidence from Yarris' defense lawyer before his trial — including the existence of a pair of gloves that investigators believed had been worn by the killer.

Yarris said the gloves were too small for his hands. Yarris, 42, was released from prison in January after DNA tests indicated genetic material found under the victim's fingernails, on her undergarments and in the pair of gloves at the crime scene belonged to another, unidentified man.

Teen stabs neighbor

MN NEW SCANDIA TOWN — A 14-year-old boy armed with a military knife stormed into a woman's house and, for reasons not yet determined, stabbed his sleeping neighbor at least 20 times before she was able to fight him off, authorities said.

The woman, Jaclyn Larson, a 20-year-old college student, called 911 and identified her attacker before she was taken to a hospital in St. Paul, according to authorities.

She was last known to be listed in fair condition.

Drowning death

VA MONETA — A woman has drowned at her home on Smith Mountain Lake, officials said.

Carole Grace, 64, drowned in about 15 feet of water off the deck of her Moneta home the night of Aug. 3, said Sgt. Harry Clingenpeel of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. She was alone and did not know how to swim, he said. Clingenpeel said that alcohol apparently was a factor in the accident.

Lanny Grace said his wife went outside to feed a dog, and he became concerned when she did not return.

Resort is a gamble

RI PROVIDENCE — The state Supreme Court said a referendum on whether Harrah's Entertainment can build a resort-style casino in West Warwick violates the state constitution. The court said the constitution prohibits lotteries not run by the state. It was not immediately clear how the Supreme Court's advisory opinion would affect the question's placement on the ballot.

Meeting the benchmark

TN NASHVILLE — State education officials reported the number of schools meeting No Child Left Behind benchmarks this year. Eighty-one percent of Tennessee's 1,677 schools succeeded in meeting the standards. The other 19 percent failed at least one of the benchmarks. Last year, 47 percent of Tennessee's schools failed to meet at least one standard.



Mmmmm, mmmmm

Sarah Montey, 6, of Ripon, Wis., chomps on an ear of sweet corn at the Winnebago County Fair in Oshkosh, Wis.



Giddyap! Jennifer Artman, of Orrick, Mo., rides her Arabian horse Dispatcher in a practice arena on the opening day of the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Mo.



No time for play U.S. Forest Service Fire Engineer Keith Orr kicks a soccer ball out of a burned area as he uses a drip torch to conduct a burnout operation on Elk Trail East Road near Lake Shasta, Calif.

Election 2004



**Find out where Bush
and Kerry stand
on military issues**

Page 3



**What's the most
important (voting) issue
for you this year?**

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**Voting assistance
officers are ready
to answer questions**

Page 6

ELECTION 2004

Overseas military voters key to race

Experts say Bush-Kerry election could be close, making every vote vital

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

The two major parties have selected their candidates and staked out positions.

Polls show that the electorate is fairly entrenched, and with our Electoral College system, the election could turn on a few key states.

The voting assistance officers have fanned out to overseas bases and are reporting record numbers of people contacted.

If you do the numbers, folks, you'll see that the overseas military vote could decide the whole shootin' match.

"In an extremely close election, the overseas vote will no doubt be critical in many states," said Jamin Raskin, professor at American University in Washington, D.C., who teaches election law.

Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Missouri and of course Florida are just five states, all with significant numbers of electoral votes, that are polling as dead heats.

"Every indication, every piece of research that I've done on this election, tells me it's too close to call," said Victoria Farrar-Myers, associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Another factor, Farrar-Myers says, makes this year's race tighter than most.

"The military vote has trended Republican, that's not news to anyone," she says.

"But this year, there's an interesting twist," (Sen.) John Kerry is the military candidate. He is a veteran, and he's after the military vote and the veteran vote.

"You [saw] it in the Democratic National Convention — John Kerry, reporting for duty." He's going after the military vote, something the Democrats haven't really done. He's putting the military vote very much back into play.

"With George W. Bush, the military support is there, but it's so little time around. There's an enormous strain on the military," Farrar-Myers said.

Raskin agrees.



Raskin



Second Lt. Brian Williams, left, a voting assistance officer with 8th Personnel Command, helps two soldiers register to vote July 30 at Trent Gym at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea.

"What's going to happen in this race is anyone's guess," he said. "The war veteran is the Democrat, and the president has a sort of murky National Guard history."

The Bush camp vehemently denies this. "It's hard to quantify the overseas military vote, but it's trended Republican and we don't anticipate that changing at all," said David Castillo, veterans coalition director at Bush-Cheney campaign headquarters in Arlington, Va.

"We feel that those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan understand that the president supports them, and that John Kerry turned his back on them when he voted against the \$87 billion supplemental [funding] package and was not present for the vote on the \$25 billion" that passed in June.

If the military vote did go to Kerry, it would be a fairly significant cultural shift, Raskin said.

"It's safe to say that the military vote has tended to support the incumbent during wartime. It also has leaned Republican for several decades now."

"The pivotal moment was probably the Vietnam War, when the Democrats became the anti-war party. The electorate

was reorganized during the '60s along this cultural fault line, and the GOP began leaning to military strength and nationalism."

By the numbers

According to a report to the president and Congress from the Federal Voting Assistance Program, it is estimated that about 37 percent of U.S. citizens overseas vote. Overturn among the American public in the 2000 presidential election was around 50 percent.

But take heart: About 70 percent of military personnel do.

Americans abroad have not turned out to vote in large numbers, historically. Some see the registration and voting procedures, mailing and waiting, as unnecessarily complicated. And there have long been urban legends that their votes are not counted or just get lost or thrown away.

"Historically, I mean, [the problems of election year] 2000 are not new; there's been an ongoing problem with disenfranchisement with the overseas vote," Farrar-Myers said.

Raskin points to the 2000 election.

"The most graphic episode occurred with the Florida vote in 2000, where the overseas vote seems to have pushed Bush over the top. Florida was unique, because the votes came in in stages, so it was easier to track which way they [voted]."

"But with the legal resources being deployed by both sides," Raskin said, "no state is going to throw out piles of ballots."

An angry tone

What bothers many Americans is the nastiness and entrenchment on both sides.

CNN, once derided as the Clinton News Network, is considered liberal beyond hope, and liberals, or "progressives," as they now call themselves, scream bloody murder at Fox calling itself fair and balanced. Both sides have their attack dogs, and what were once sober analyses of views on the Sunday morning talk shows have turned into fatuous free-for-alls in prime time. You'd think a hockey game is going to be more at your minute.

"We're at a point in our country where it's either all about 'Fahrenheit 9/11' or it's all about ultra-Conservatism," said retired Army Gen. Tommy Franks, in town to promote his book, "American Soldier."

"My experience in this grand democracy," Franks said Aug. 9, "has been that life in America is somewhere between those two poles, and so I try to stay away from the hyperbole in this thing — that 'Well, Michael Moore had it all right' or 'he was a lyin', cheatin', no good son of a gun.'"

"I mean, there's fact and there's fiction involved in that particular piece, just like there's fact and there's fiction in the other extreme ..."

"But we ought to stop the business of saying, 'If you disagree with me, you're not a patriot. If you disagree with me, you're not a good American.'" In my view, there's too much of that."

And so, my fellow Americans, send in those federal postcard applications as soon as you can, and vote. It might just be you and those in your unit who change the course of history.

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mil



Franks

Wide world of voting information available on Web

The Internet can be a terrific resource for elections information, or a complete waste of time. Or both! Have a look at some of these Elections 2004 sites:

■ www.georgewbush.com and www.johnkerry.com — Promises, promises. The candidates' stances on the big topics.

■ www.votender.org — And then there's Ralph Nader. He's running again.

■ www.presidentmatch.com — A short quiz on issues

matches your positions with who would be your best choice.

■ www.factcheck.org — A great way to shoot down those Internet rumors and junk e-mails.

■ www.politics1.com — A site with a wide range of election news items.

■ www.cookpolitical.com — A nonpartisan look at the political landscape in America.

■ www.youth04.org — A site run by college students,

and targeted at potential voters age 18 to 25

■ www.comedycentral.com/tv/shows/indecision2004/ — Some silly stuff from Jon Stewart's crew at The Daily Show

■ www.jibjab.com — Home to the famous "This land is your land" parody with the weirdly jointed Kerry and Bush trading insults.

— Patrick Dickson

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Photo/Stars and Stripes

ELECTION 2004

Battle lines are drawn

President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry have brought the military "front and center" in this year's presidential race. Here are some of the issues and the stances that the two candidates have taken.

	<p>Kerry</p> <p>Bush</p>
END STRENGTH	<p>Expand active-duty forces by 40,000, by adding two Army divisions.</p> <p>Kerry also would increase by 1,200 the number of civil affairs personnel—judges, physicians, bankers, health inspectors, fire chiefs, for post-conflict situations. He also would add 500 active duty personnel to the 4th Psychological Operations Group, the only such group in the Army.</p>
BASE PAY	<p>In 2003, his first budget year, he gave servicemembers a 6.2 percent pay raise. In 2004, 4.8 percent; in 2005, 4.1 percent; in 2006, 3.5 percent, all at least 0.5 percent above civilian raises.</p>
HOUSING	<p>Promises to accelerate the construction of new military housing by providing incentives for private developers to build new housing on or near military bases and lease it to military families at a rate consistent with their housing allowances.</p>
SGLI	<p>Has said he would provide cost-free Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance to those in combat areas, for a coverage of \$250,000.</p>
BASE CLOSURES	<p>It's premature to start going into a sort of automatic post-Cold War base-closing process when we're in a war with very hot spots around the world that may demand more from us, not less," Kerry said. Would 2005 rounds of state-side base closures.</p>
MISSILE DEFENSE	<p>Reduces total expenditures on missile defense, but continues the program.</p>
WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT	<p>● Sensing and control technologies that will provide the foundation for effective operation of unmanned and robotic systems.</p> <p>● Precision weapons, including directed-energy weapons that can produce lethal and nonlethal effects.</p> <p>● Data-fusion technologies that will enable our military to act more decisively with enhanced situational awareness and greatly improved intelligence assessments.</p> <p>● More digital divisions, harness the power of "network-centric" warfare, and improve tactical communications crucial to future military success whether the next enemy is a terrorist, an outlaw regime or a would-be peer competitor.</p> <p>● Investment in new, nonlethal technologies, such as directed energy weapons that can incapacitate the enemy without risking the lives of innocent bystanders—for use in urban combat and stability operations so that America's forces are equipped to win the peace as well as the war.</p>
FOREIGN RELATIONS	<p>Claims the Bush administration has "broken relationships" with allies, and thus slowed America's progress in the war on terror. Insists his party's diplomacy will bring other nations back into the war on terror, and get them to put troops on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p>

Last election proved voters still vital to Electoral College

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

THE Electoral College, whose members, and not the popular vote, ultimately decide who wins the U.S. presidency, won't keep 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Susan Moyer from casting a ballot in November.

"I'm going to vote. We're American and [voting is] something we have an opportunity to do that a lot of people don't," said the young Marine stationed at Quantico, Va. "And I'm a female. That's another reason why I want to vote. People thought a lot for a female's right to vote, and a lot of women in other countries don't get it, and I'm not going to give up my right to vote because of the Electoral College."

And she knows what it is. Sort of.

"Yeah, I'm a little confused about it. I know a lot of people are. And a lot of people say they won't vote because they think their vote doesn't matter. And I don't understand how the person the nation voted for can be different than who becomes president," she said, referring to the 2000 election in which the tallied popular vote favored former Vice President Al Gore but the Electoral College count put President Bush in office.

The Electoral College is a group of people, called electors, picked by each state who officially elect the president and vice president. The number of electors equals the number of representatives in both houses of Congress. The winner is the candidate who receives a majority, at least 270, of the 538 Electoral College votes; 535 for each of the states and three for the District of Columbia.

Electors are chosen at state conventions or can be rewarded for a job well done by political party leaders, said Rob Alexander, an assistant professor of political science at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

Each state political party has the same number of electors. In Virginia, for example, Republicans pick 13 people. Democrats pick another 13, and even Ralph Nader's camp has 13 representatives in the event he wins the popular vote, Alexander said.

The political party of the candidate who wins the popular vote in the state sends its electors to the state house in December to cast the actual votes that will

elect the next president.

And that's why it's important for average citizens to go to the polls, Alexander explained.

There are, however, the occasional "faithless electors," or those who fail to vote for the candidate to whom they pledged support, Alexander said. While there is no Constitutional provision to ensure an elector votes as they pledged, some states do have laws to penalize a faithless elector, though the laws never have been enforced, Alexander said.

For example, in 2000 a faithless elector in Washington, D.C., illegally abstained instead of voting for Gore as she had pledged, he said. "And nothing was ever done about it."

The Electoral College, created by the nation's founding fathers, guarantees each state's sovereignty in electing the executive branch leader, said Alexander and Professor Christopher Duncan, chairman of political science at the University of Dayton, also in Ohio.

"It also serves a broader agenda," Duncan said. "We reason we wouldn't want a president who only appeals to one particular region of the country."

One outcome of the process is that it "forces candidates to go out and campaign in places where there aren't a lot of people. They have to go west, and by west, I don't mean California. They have to go to Iowa and Ohio."

Duncan said he hasn't seen data to suggest the Electoral College dissuades people from going to the polls, "but it makes people angry," he said, also citing the results of the 2000 presidential race. Some argue it undermines the principle of one person, one vote.

In states but Maine and Nebraska, it's "winner take all" in the Electoral College votes. Lawmakers in those two wanted to let electors cast votes mirroring the will of voters in particular districts, Alexander said.

But it serves a key purpose, said voter Army Maj. Lanier Ward, severely injured in June 2003 while serving in Iraq.

"Since I find myself defending the right to vote, I find it as a duty of our citizens to take the time to choose our civilian leaders and representatives."

"I still think our founding fathers were right in the way they designed the system," Ward



Moyer



The number of presidential candidates. I'd like to see the legitimate formation of more than two political parties. With our incredible diversity, only two parties are not representative of the whole country.

1st Sgt. William Lemke
Wiesbaden, Germany



I think the most important issue is America's relationship with Iraq and how long the troops will be there in the coming years.

Navy Lt. j.g. Pete Grant
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



The war and homeland security. I'm afraid we may see an increase in terrorist attacks on the United States.

Pfc. Karina Arcia
Wiesbaden, Germany



My most important issue is my candidate's view on war and how he feels we should keep troops in Iraq.

Marine Pfc. Felix Baaz
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



It's the economy. Not so much the war. The job situation at home is not so good.

Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Clark
Heidelberg, Germany



Iraq. How long are we going to be there? Are we going anywhere after that? I also have some questions about how we got into the war.

Senior Airman Adam Saunders
Yokota Air Base, Japan



Health care is my main concern.

Marine Lance Cpl. Steve Colbert
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



Military pay raise. I think that those stationed overseas should get more money, because it can be difficult for spouses to find work.

Airman 1st Class Eric Donner
Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany



Homeland security. I feel that changing presidents in the middle of the war on terrorism could cause instability with homeland security.

Spc. Travis Jackson
Bamberg, Germany



The war. I like the direction. We're doing good things in Iraq. But I want to know where each candidate stands on all the related issues.

Airman 1st Class Craig Smith
Aviano Air Base, Italy



Education. No one has really addressed it in this campaign.

Cadet Tom Pae
West Point
(visiting Yongsan Garrison)



The war in Iraq. I'd like to see the issues in Iraq solved as soon as possible.

Pfc. Colleen Blair
Kaiserslautern, Germany



Iraq. I want to see Bush finish what he started. Plus, he's good to the military.

Master Sgt. Bob Kiewer
McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Beh the b

Stars and S
What is
important (v
for you t



The economy. It's about selecting the right person to do the job. If they can create more jobs, the economy improves.

Henry Roeder
Kaiserslautern, Germany



You think about the war in Iraq, and of course, being in the military. You hear from both sides, from both candidates... what each candidate is looking for — I hate to be selfish — but for our interest, the military's interest. And of course being a father... Iraq and other world deployments.

Staff Sgt. Tim Boyte
Osan Air Base, South Korea

mind ballot

Stripes asks:
the most
(voting) issue
this year?



The environment. More planet-friendly. Neither (major candidate) has really addressed it so far, so I'm still waiting.

Senior Airman Mike Ives
Aviano Air Base, Italy



All the money that's going to the war and helping them rebuild Iraq. We're losing soldiers every day. That war is never going to end.

Monica Erives
Heidelberg, Germany



This is my first time voting in an election, so I'm paying attention to how my candidate handles military issues and national security.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Michelle Vasquez
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



I'd say our fight against terrorism and national security.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Jeremiah Johnson
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



At home, unemployment. Abroad, it would be the war, of course.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Bruce Bagwell
Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan



The biggest thing for me is military pay. I think I heard one side say that they were going to reduce military pay. As long as they keep the pay to where we can survive both overseas and in the States, it should be good.

Staff Sgt. Ceresa Young
Misawa Air Base, Japan



I'd have to say the welfare of the poor. There are some that don't eat and others who have four or five homes. Someone who's in there who cares about that, whose mind and heart is for the well-being of the poor.

Senior Airman Jeremy Phelps
Misawa Air Base, Japan



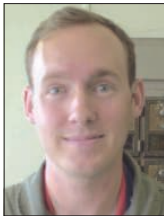
I'm the principal of a school. Education. I'm interested in finding out what's going on with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Melissa Klopfer
Principal, Aviano Elementary School
Aviano Air Base, Italy



Our relationship with other countries. Our ties to the international community, and groups we're a part of, such as the U.N.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Carroll
Misawa Air Base, Japan



Abortion and gay marriage are two issues on my mind. I'm strongly against both.

Capt. Ryan Boyle
Yokota Air Base, Japan



I'd have to say the war in Iraq because it affects us the most.

Cadet Peter Hagsstrom
West Point
(visiting Yongsan Garrison)



My candidate has to care about taxes and military support.

Lance. Cpl. Stephen Lagasse
Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan



For me, the most important issue is what's going on in the desert. How it's affecting the people there and the economy. It just seems like chaos. We need to get everyone back home as quickly as we can.

Senior Airman Jeremy Baker
Aviano Air Base, Italy



Jobless rate. If everyone is working and making some more money, buying houses etc., it would be a big boost to the economy.

Noel Van Hassel
Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany



Hmm... I'm not sure. Honestly, we don't know what's going on, I'm not going to lie to you.

Lance. Cpl. Stephen Lagasse
Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan

ELECTION 2004

In Europe, don't delay voter registration



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Master Sgt. James Mc Gee, 469th Air Base Group voting assistance officer, left, helps Staff Sgt. Jennifer Mananea-Nelson fill out her Registration and Absentee Ballot Request last week at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

BY LISA HORN

Stars and Stripes

Time is of the essence for troops who want to vote in this year's presidential election.

The U.S. Postal Service's recommended deadline to submit a postcard application form — which is used to register to vote — has passed. But it doesn't mean that local voting assistance officers are giving up.

The deadline was set in the hope of avoiding the problems of the 2000 election, when thousands of overseas absentee ballots did not arrive in time to be counted.

Even if soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors missed the first deadline, the Army and Air Force commands say there will be a second push to help out the troops.

"In addition to making additional contact right now, we're also going to be pushing our [voting assistance officers] in the latter part of August to go out and do a second contact," said Maj. Ricky Harrington, U.S. Air Forces in Europe personnel officer.

USAFE and U.S. Army Europe officials had hoped to contact all soldiers and airmen by the end of the week. But Armed Forces Voters Week — Sept. 3-11 — will be one last chance for VAOs to reinforce concepts and advise troops of their voting rights and responsibilities, and to get last-minute postcard applications in the mail.

The commands said they do not track the number



An airman fills out the Registration and Absentee Ballot Request-Federal Postcard Application Form.

of servicemembers who have registered to vote, but rather the number of troops voting assistance officers have contacted about voting procedures overseas.

As of early last week, USAFE voting officers had contacted 79 percent or 26,900 U.S. military and DOD civilians assigned to the command.

USAREUR was unable to release its current figures, but the command said it had contacted 70 percent of its soldiers by the end of June.

"We expect to be close to 100 percent by Friday," said Army Maj. Brett Lindsay, 1st Personnel Command voting assistance officer.

SEE VOTING ON PAGE 7

Pacific voting assistance officers help make confusing process a little easier

BY JENNIFER SVAN

Stars and Stripes

Spc. Joe Brooks held his voter registration application in his hand in Yongsan Garrison's sweltering Trent Gym recently, promising he would fill it out after he confirmed his home information.

Brooks said he didn't vote in the last presidential election, attributing it to laziness. This year, however, Brooks — who described himself as a Democrat voting Republican this time — is charged up.

"I'm really excited because a lot of people have different views," said the 23-year-old personnel administrator.

Brooks is one of thousands of 8th Army soldiers in South Korea going through the service's Personnel Asset Inventory, a physical head count of every soldier in every unit worldwide. This year, U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon LaPorte incorporated voter registration programs into the asset inventory — virtually guaranteeing that every soldier in South Korea will be contacted by a voting assistance officer.

With the Nov. 2 presidential election nearing, the race is on to get Pacific-based troops registered to vote.

Voting assistance officers say the services are making a concerted effort to reach every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine — as well as civilian workers and family members — to avoid a repeat of four years ago. In the 2000 general

election, an estimated 29 percent of military personnel who wanted to vote did not get absentee ballots or received them too late.

Steve Stacy, the U.S. Army Japan voting assistance officer, said, "We're not supposed to talk about Florida."

But it's impossible to not talk about Florida. The state was pivotal in 2000 and changed the way military voting officers overseas do business.

The VAO job is an extra duty, but there's a much greater emphasis on the program, Stacy said, namely because the Defense Department reviewed each service's voting processes after the 2000 election and found shortcomings "with respect to people just weren't getting the word or they didn't understand that they could vote even though they were overseas working for the government."

Army and Air Force voting assistance officers in Japan, South Korea and Guam are mandated to contact every active-duty member in their units about voting. They're not allowed to be partisan in their approach, nor can they require a servicemember to vote.

"We're supposed to ask: Have you registered to vote? Do you know how? Do you need any assistance?" said Maj. Darren Rhonin, a voting assistance officer at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

The 50 voting officers for USARP spread throughout Japan and Okinawa are required to hand a federal post card application to every soldier; it's a postage-paid document that gets one

registered to vote and on the list to receive an absentee ballot.

Individuals can print out the same application on the Internet at www.dvap.gov.

In South Korea, each soldier is likely to be approached at least twice, said Master Sgt. Marylynne Hayes, a voting assistance officer with the 8th Personnel Command.

"The reason, we like to think, is because the close outcome of the last election," said Col. Richard A. Rhodes, head of the 8th Army office. "It was decided by Florida, which was probably decided by absentee ballots. Soldiers realize that and know their votes actually mean something."

SEE ASSISTANCE ON PAGE 7



JEREMY KURN/Stars and Stripes

Second Lt. Brian Williams, left, a voting assistance officer with 8th Personnel Command, helps two soldiers register to vote last month at Trent Gym at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea. Military officials are putting a heavy emphasis on voter registration this election year, striving to contact with each servicemember.

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ELECTION 2004

Voting: Getting troops registered

VOTING, FROM PAGE 6

In an effort to reach all soldiers, USAREUR started handing out the federal form at unit formations in July, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Young, USAREUR voting action officer.

"We talked to all the soldiers, we took them to all the Web sites of their home states and we went back a second time to make sure everybody was registered," said Sgt. 1st Class Matt Shea, of Headquarters and Service Company, 66th Military Intelligence Group in Darmstadt, Germany. "I would say we have 100 percent of

our soldiers registered."

The voting officers did their jobs making sure soldiers were informed, according to Spc. Dustin Pfaff, of Company A, 32nd Signal Battalion in Darmstadt.

"They made sure that we knew [about voting procedures]," Pfaff said. "I think it was battalionwide — all platoon leaders had to go to a class."

Pfaff, along with Spc. Thomas Allen and Pfc. Chris Carder, also of Company A, said they mailed their postcard applications after voting was discussed at a formation in June. They said they received notification that they were registered with their

states about a month later.

An additional 90,000 forms were sent to soldiers in deployed locations, Young said.

"If they register, that's going to trigger the ballot to come to them whether it's for the primary or for the general election," Young said. "So it's not something [service members] have to keep up with [every year] as long as they are registered and keep their address updated."

Ballots sent from deployed locations are to be postmarked no later than Oct. 11 in order to be counted in the November election. Troops in Europe are asked to send their ballots in no later than Oct. 15.

For servicemembers unable to get in contact with their voting assistance officer, the federal postcard application form can be printed off the federal voting assistance program Web site at www.fvap.gov and mailed at the voter's expense.

Forty-four states also allow voters to register by fax, Lindsay said. And Florida — the site of the last election's biggest controversy regarding overseas ballots — will e-mail ballots to its registered overseas voters for this year's elections, Lindsay said.

E-mail Lisa Horn at: horn@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Assistance:
Helping voters

ASSISTANCE, FROM PAGE 6

This year, Rhodes said, the command will have distributed more than 50,000 federal postcard voter registrations, which had an Aug. 15 deadline. The command also reaches out to civilian workers and family members and will be a source for absentee ballot information as well.

The command is airing at least four commercials weekly on American Forces Network television and radio stations, featuring LaPorte and 8th Army commander Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell urging soldiers to vote.

The Navy's goal was to reach every servicemember and civilian affiliated with the service by Aug. 13, said Lt. Eudora Franklin, voting assistance officer for Commander, Naval Forces Japan headquarters.

Servicemembers in the Pacific say it's hard to miss the message about registering to vote, whether it's cast from voting officers, base fliers, mass briefings or command radio and television promotions.

Turazeca Hose and Jade Domingo, staff sergeants with 35th Services Squadron at Misawa, said they both have had "face-to-face interaction" with their voting officers.

Four years ago, while stationed at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, they didn't even know they had a voting officer, Hose said. Domingo said she didn't vote then, but plans to this year "because I'm older."

The service hasn't reached all sailors: Seaman recruit Brandon Bromley, living on a berthing barge three weeks after arriving on base before assignment to the USS Kitty Hawk, said he had not been contacted. He said he definitely wanted to vote and planned to vote but did not know how to vote from overseas.

Air Force officials in South Korea say they also are embarking on an aggressive "100 percent contact" effort.

A big push will be made during the week of Sept. 3-11, which the Defense Department has designated Armed Forces Voters Week.

Joseph Giordano, Jeremy Kirk, Vince Little, Nancy Montgomery and Mark Rankin contributed to this story.

E-mail Jennifer Swan at: swan@patriotes.osd.mil

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ELECTION 2004

College: States stay important

COLLEGE, FROM PAGE 3

said. "We often forget we are a federal republic where power is shared between the states and the national government. The Electoral College makes the outcome in each state important."

"If the system wasn't set up as it is, you would never see campaigning in Iowa, but rather at urban population focus points (such as) California, New York and Florida. Although we don't base the outcome on the popular vote, the individual citizen's vote is important to the outcome of each state election."

Are there problems with the system?

Army Maj. Dave Filer, an Infantry officer and formerly an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point, says it's worth discussing.

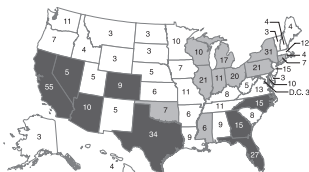
"That is arguable; one might agree that the American public is smart enough — trust in the wisdom of the masses — to make a choice without having a system where state electors do it for them. Although, historically, the electors have pretty

Counting the electoral vote

The number of electors for each state is equal to the state's number of senators (always two) and U.S. representatives (based on population). Here are the changes for 2004, which reflect the results of the 2000 Census.

Electors for each state*

■ With decrease ■ With increase □ No change



*Total number of electors is always 538

SOURCE: U.S. Federal Election Commission

much followed the will of the majority of people in the state. I think the argument about 'faithless electors' is overblown.

"Interesting to note, however, that we'd have a different president today if we went simply by the majority public

vote," said Filer, assistant director for Joint Strategic Plans and Policy for the Multi-national Security Transition Command in Baghdad.

"Question is, should we have a system today that was based on antiquated ideals of aristoc-

2004 electoral vote changes

Arizona	+2
California	+1
Colorado	+1
Connecticut	-1
Florida	+2
Georgia	+2
Illinois	-1
Indiana	-1
Michigan	-1
Mississippi	-1
Nevada	+1
New York	-2
North Carolina	+1
Ohio	-1
Oklahoma	-1
Pennsylvania	-2
Texas	+2
Wisconsin	-1

AP/KRT/Stars and Stripes

racy and distrust for the opinion of the masses? Maybe the American people as a whole are 'smart enough' today to know who they want selected for president. Maybe not."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@strps.osd.mil

A voter's Top 10

Ten things you can do to ensure your absentee vote is counted, according to the Federal Voting Assistance

Program:

■ Contact your unit/emergency organization Voting Assistance Officer for help in absentee registration and voting.

■ Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site at www.fvap.gov for information on the absentee registration and voting process.

■ Make sure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or online version of the Federal Post Card Application.

■ Make sure your local election official has your current mailing address.

■ Sign and date all election materials.

■ Fulfill your state's witness/notary requirements, if required.

■ Make sure your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.

■ Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner — no later than September. A lot of deadlines have been floated out there — do it now!

■ Mail your ballot not later than Oct. 15. (Oct. 11 is recommended from deployed locations.)

■ Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your state absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

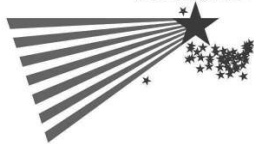
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DEMOCRATS
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Democrats believe that those who put their lives on the line for their country deserve a better shake. That's why the Democratic Party has

- Worked for military social programs, including 100% tuition-free college courses.
- Worked to bring the WIC mother and child nutrition program to our bases overseas.
- Fought to protect veterans' benefits.



Peek-a-boo

Butcher, a 4-month-old harbor seal found orphaned in Homer, Alaska, in May, swims around its pen at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward.



Airport freedom

A Southwest Airlines plane on the ground at the Corpus Christi, Texas, airport.



Time for a U-turn

A vehicle turns around on a street blocked by a downed tree in Danville, Va., after a suspected tornado caused widespread damage in the city.

Elevator malfunction

NY NEW YORK — A freight elevator suddenly shot upward, crashing into the top bulbhead of a 37-story office building in Times Square and killing one person, authorities said.

Security guard and elevator operator Carl DeClercq, 63, was declared dead at the scene Thursday afternoon, police said.

DeClercq was going down in the elevator at the end of his shift when it shot up and crashed into the bottom of the roof at the 37th floor, authorities said.

After the accident, another elevator carrying two people dropped to the ground floor but the passengers were not injured and were only briefly stranded, police said. It was unclear how far the elevator fell before it stalled.

Snuggler sentenced

LA BATON ROUGE — The serial "snuggler" will have to keep his hands to himself.

The man who sneaked into women's apartments just to cuddle with them has been sentenced to five years' probation.

Before pleading guilty earlier this year to 12 counts of unauthorized entry, Steve Danos, 26, led a commendable life, a judge said Wednesday before sentencing him.

None of the victims was hurt. Instead, the intruder roused the residents to ask about a party, helped himself to beer and pizza, folded clothes, made nachos and crawled into one woman's bed to rub her stomach.

Before his arrest, Danos had a more notable claim to fame. He drove in the winning run in the state championship baseball game his senior year at John Curtis Christian School in River Ridge.

Lemonade stand reopens

MO ST. LOUIS — Two seventh-graders are back in business after the city's health commissioner apologized because their lemonade stand had been shut down.

Mim Murray, 10, and Marisa Miller-Stockie, 12, have sold lemonade together for three summers, hoping to save enough for laptop computers before school starts.

But on Tuesday, the girls said, a Health Department inspector told them they didn't have the proper business licenses and were selling unsafe ice cubes. The girls were using powdered lemonade mix with ice cubes bought from a store.

Melba Moore, the city's health commissioner, said temporary food and beverage vendors are supposed to obtain permits, but that doesn't apply to children's lemonade stands.

"It should not have happened. And I apologize," said Moore, who gave the girls \$3 Wednesday for a 25-cent cup of lemonade.

Buggin' about a ghost

MD CHESTERTOWN — A security officer was bugged out when he saw what appeared to be a ghost haunting Kent County Court House.

The suspect spirit turned out to be a bug, the security company

says.

On July 29, for a little more than an hour, a security camera showed a round, translucent, white object that seemed to walk up and down a set of stairs inside the newer wing of the courthouse.

But a self-proclaimed "ghost investigator" wants to have another look.

Beverly Lipsinger, president of the Maryland Ghost & Spirit Association, said the descriptions she's heard don't sound like a bug.

Volunteer meter watchers

CA ARCADIA — The 30-member force of Police Department volunteers is now armed with citation books. The department expanded the duties of its Volunteers in Patrol team to include writing parking tickets for handicap-space and street-sweeping violations. Those duties will soon include all parking violations.

Sgt. Bruce Smith says budget cuts forced the city to get rid of parking control employees years ago.

Off the danger list

SD PIERRE — The black-tailed prairie dog has been dropped from a list of candidates for the federal endangered species list because scientists have concluded the rodents are no longer threatened.

Officials at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday that 18 million prairie dogs live on the Western Plains and no longer require special protection.

Gov. Mike Rounds said the decision helps ranchers whose land has been damaged by the rodents, clearing the way for state officials to control the movement of prairie dogs from federal lands onto private property.

A spokesman for the National Wildlife Federation said the decision is a mistake. The organization requested the listing in 1999.

Armed priest standoff

NY BUFFALO — A retired priest armed with a BB gun was under observation at a hospital after a 4½-hour-standoff with police ended peacefully.

Police were called to the home of the Rev. James McGrath after a neighbor spotted McGrath in his backyard holding with appeared to be a rifle. Church officials and relatives tried to contact the 75-year-old McGrath by phone, but were unsuccessful.

When SWAT team members stormed the front door around 1 p.m., they found McGrath sitting in the living room with a BB gun.

City tries to save base

NC GOLDSBORO — Officials are trying to find ways to save Seymour Johnson Air Force Base after they found its closure would cost the local economy \$1 billion. North Carolina has budgeted about \$2 million to keep its six bases safe from the latest round of closings expected to shut down up to a quarter of the nation's 425 military bases. About 4,800 personnel are stationed at the base.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Jupiter and Saturn aspect one another in a way that lets us know how we're doing — a cosmic "check-in" to be sure that we're ready for what's to come. Have we really learned our lessons from the past? Are we fit to receive what we're asking for? These questions and more will be answered the weeks to come.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 17). You've got the strength and conviction to run a marathon this year (or whatever that would be in your world as it is now). September finds you attracting all kinds of attention — you're super-dope to just the person you'd like to captivate. October calls on you to be aggressive because if you snootze, you lose. Love signs are Aquarius and Libra.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

As the sun moves and the light changes through the day, so will your mood. But your fans love you in every mood — even the salty moods. What you've got to accomplish is far more than you can do alone. Get help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Foreign territory calls to you, and you're brave enough to answer the call. You'll have to learn the ropes in this new arena. Choose your role model very carefully. Attractive but selfish people have little to teach you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

If you try to stay positive in a relationship, you'll have to clear up the blocks to free-flowing communication. The temptation is to say all that you've been thinking, but once a hurtful truth comes out, you can't take it back. Be strategic.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You're subject to powerful influence. You could meet someone who sparkles in your eyes. Instant infatuation ensues — the kind that makes you want to run five miles and read books to make yourself more intelligent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

With a few tweaks, a relationship could really be enriching to both parties.

Your need for intimacy grows, and so does your ability to ask for it. You fear rejection but move forward anyway, which is why you'll ultimately be fulfilled.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

In matters of finance, you've been holding back out of fear. That's got to stop! You'll make more as you resolve to do so. Don't worry about the "how" right now — just concentrate on creating the feeling that you deserve abundance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

When a partner fails to meet an obligation, you're the one who is required to pick up the slack. The favor will be returned to you later, but be sure to reinforce to your friend that this can never happen again or it becomes a habit.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Feelings can be deceptive and overwhelming, especially when you're a sensitive Scorpio. But it's time to trust those wily emotions in spite of how they've wronged you in the past. Let your heart lead the way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Do your research. What you don't know could hurt you! Be willing to uncover facts that don't support your current opinion. The more information you can gather now, the better your decisions will be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You're aware of your motivation, so you skillfully make the most of complex situations. You're not hung up on the particulars, but instead you're intent on meeting your heart's desires. It's easy for you to create win-win solutions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

A central relationship takes your focus now. This partnership has come a long way but still has a long way to go. You may have to wade through emotional garbage in order to get to the real reason you're still with this person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

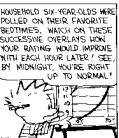
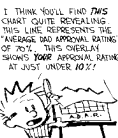
A change of scenery will knock out the "blahs" and put you in a playful mood. When you're the "new guy" in the environment, you're automatically surrounded by intrigue and extra attention. Bask in it while you've got it.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



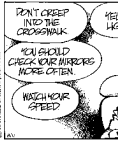
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Kathy



Hi and Lois



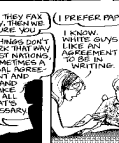
Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



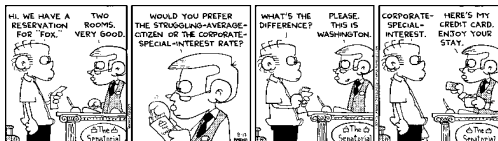
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Foxtrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



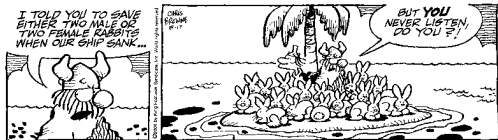
Blondie



Dilbert



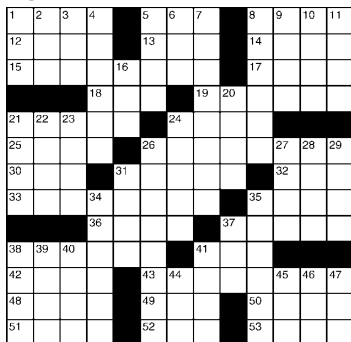
Hagar



Warfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

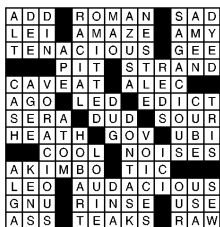


Across

- 1 Hearty drink
- 5 Six-pack muscles
- 8 Halloween purchase
- 12 TV oldie, "— & Allie"
- 13 "Go, team!"
- 14 PC symbol
- 15 Burr role
- 17 Big rig
- 18 Historic period
- 19 Kind of apple or potato
- 21 Native New Zealander
- 24 Galileo's birthplace
- 25 — mater
- 26 Obliquely
- 30 All-purpose

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 51 Nerve cell process | 23 Augury |
| 52 "Chicago" lyricist | 24 Harbor structures |
| 53 Lecherous look | 26 Creamy fruit drink |
| Down | |
| 1 Go scussing | 27 Tournament format |
| 2 Kids' card game | 28 Scruff |
| 3 Jurist Lance | 29 Sewer |
| 4 Family subdivisions | 31 Old woman's home? |
| 5 Met melody | 32 It makes dough |
| 6 Disgracful | 33 Sticky |
| 7 General at Appomattox | 35 Correspondent |
| 8 Church songbook | 37 Scoot |
| 9 "Dead man's hand" pair | 38 Vicki Lawrence role |
| 10 A handful | 39 Wild mountain goat |
| 11 Make a sweater | 40 Pianist Peter |
| 12 _____ Lanka | 41 Snatch |
| 20 Addict | 42 Solenne |
| 21 Handle roughly | 43 Gnatky's milieu |
| 22 Choir member | 46 Opposite of "post." |
| | 47 Always, in verse. |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-17

CRYPTOQUIP

JDRW-JDGL GERBLZB GDRW
MDRMUZ RERW LNU TBS
NU ABKU UBGLUZ UWWG:

“ E K S U K E L A S T B S . ”
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SMALL PURPLE
 FRUIT MAKES YOU BECOME ZANY, I RECKON
 YOU MUST BE PLUM CRAZY!

Sex drive differences cause friction

Dear Abby: I'm writing regarding your reply to "Needs More," whose sexual appetite is bigger than her fiancé's.

You advised her not to marry him because of it. I disagree.

I have been married to a wonderful man for three years. Had I let our differing drives stop me from marrying him, I would have missed out on a loving, mature, attentive husband and father to our children. I actually think I have it better than many women out there whose husbands demand sex daily.

There is more to a relationship than sex. My husband shows me love and affection in hundreds of other ways.

Perhaps "Needs More" should take a closer look at their relationship. If sex is the only thing lacking, other ways of physically expressing love — like hugging, holding hands and kissing — could be substituted. If she nur-

tures her relationship in all the other ways, she may find, as I have, that his desire grows in time. Libido fades with age; love does not.

— **Satisfied in All Ways in Knoxville**

Dear Abby



Dear Satisfied: You and your husband have been able to negotiate past your differences and make your marriage a fulfilling one. That is not the case with many of the wives and husbands who write to me. Sometimes I wish I could run a dating service for all of the mismatched couples who feel sad, frustrated, isolated and unattractive to the person

they love. The reasons for a low sex drive can vary. Read on:

Dear Abby: That letter from "Needs More" could have been written by me 20 years ago. I married my best friend, who also had very little interest in sex. During our six-year marriage we

argued frequently and I felt more and more undesirable. When I finally found the strength to leave the marriage, it broke both our hearts.

Two years later, my ex realized that he was gay. It made so much sense in retrospect. I agree with the advice you gave "Needs More." She should keep her fiancé as a friend, but she should not marry him.

— **Been There, Done That in Virginia**

Dear Been There: Thank you for sharing your experience. The mail I have received from readers has been divided on this issue. About one-third come from women, like yourself, whose husbands turned out to be gay. Another third said the problem had been caused by a hormonal or chemical imbalance or depression, which had been successfully treated. The rest felt I should reconsider my advice.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Please e-mail me to Abby at the internet at http://www.uepress.com/dearabby. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LISKY

HECEK

TAJECK

UNPIRT

UNPIRT

UNPIRT

UNPIRT

UNPIRT

UNPIRT

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHY THE BANKER FIRED THE LOAN OFFICER.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FATAL CLUCK IRONIC ALKALI
 Answer: What the actor made backstage — A CURTAIN "CALL"

Conflicting views about mom's dress

Dear Annie: This is

for "Rubbed the Wrong Way in Lincoln, Neb.," the stay-at-home mom who complained because a woman wore a thong swimsuit in front of her children. The mother took a photo of the woman and anonymously hung it on her door with a wisecrack caption.

What a crude and mean thing to do. If someone did that to me, I would call the police and hope to have her arrested for harassment.

And where did her children learn to call the neighbor by the distasteful and low-grade nickname "The Butt Lady"? Neither this woman nor her children sound like models of decorum to me.

At my health club, these women think they own the pools merely because they have their kids with them.

I would be ever so grateful if

Annie's Mailbox



someone would dislodge these women and their screaming offspring for just one day.

— **Rochester, N.H.**
Dear Rochester:
 Most of our readers do not agree with you.
 Read on:

From Kentucky: We had a similar situation. "Jen" was a 30-something, well-built blonde who always came to the pool in a string bikini, then would pose, stretch and show off in front of everyone. Leers, jeers and comments did not stop her.

Several of us decided to fight back. These gals, of every shape and size, paraded around in front of Jen in similar attire. One rather overweight older woman arranged to have a bikini "malfunction" in front of Jen and her hubby. She got the message.

Boston: You said if the building has no dress-code restrictions,

there wasn't much she could do. If it's a condo, she can get together with other residents to petition the trustees to adopt dress-code restrictions. If the trustees refuse, she can organize to elect new trustees. If it's a rental, I would think a landlord might respond to a large number of tenants asking for a dress or behavior code at the pool.

Highland, Ind.: Since she is getting no help from the landlord (I'm sure he is enjoying the scenery), please advise her to check with her local police department regarding the woman being in a state of partial nudity in public. It may seem like a drastic measure, but I wouldn't think twice about it if my children were exposed to public indecency like that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@annlanders.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

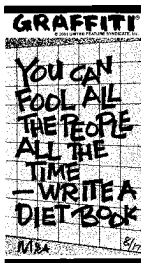
Family Circus



8-17

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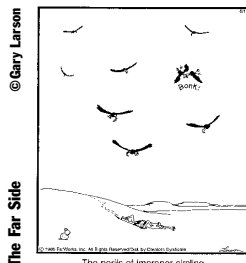
"No, I was facin' the same way as always."



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson



The Far Side

Non Sequitur



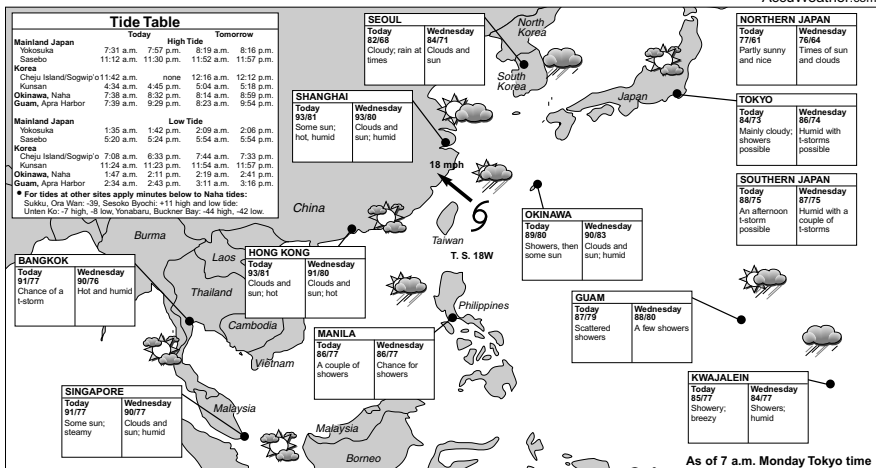
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The Pacific Forecast

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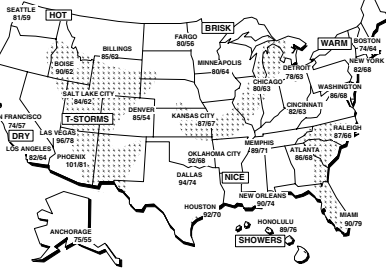
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 73. Friday: Thunder showers, high 84, low 72.	KADENA Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 92, low 84. Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 92, low 83.	SEOUL Thursday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 74. Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 91, low 74.	MANILA Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 77. Friday: Thunderstorms, high 89, low 77.	HAGATNA Thursday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 78. Friday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 79.
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Sunday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	83/60	Los Angeles	80/64
Amarillo	77/57	Little Rock	86/60
Anchorage	77/50	Louisville	81/60
Ashville	75/50	Miami	91/80
Baltimore	81/63	Milwaukee	74/57
Birmingham	85/62	Nashville	83/57
Bismarck	83/64	New York	78/68
Boise	92/67	Omaha	79/62
Boston	70/60	Orlando	91/75
Brownsville	72/70	Philadelphia	79/66
Buffalo	82/75	Phoenix	77/55
Burlington	72/70	Pittsburgh	77/55
Charlotte	83/60	Portland, Ore.	71/60
Charlotte	80/70	Portland, Me.	86/57
Chicago	74/67	Portland, Maine City	81/57
Columbus, Ohio	79/57	St. Louis	81/59
Duluth	74/57	San Antonio	80/68
Durham	85/61	San Diego	90/78
Harford	77/60	San Juan	94/77
Helena	90/60	Tampa	90/78
Indianapolis	78/55	Tulsa	85/64
Jacksonville	89/67	Washington	89/65
Kansas City	81/61	Wichita	78/65

Tuesday, August 17



U.S. Extended Forecast

Unseasonably hot weather will continue in the Pacific Northwest Tuesday and Wednesday. A strong ridge in the jet stream will allow temperatures to soar into the 90s over Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Temperatures across much of eastern Washington will average 10 to 20 degrees above normal. Farther east, a cold front will push across the Midwest and Great Lakes. The front will trigger thunderstorms as it moves across Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Elsewhere, thunderstorms will be common across the Southwest and southern Rocky Mountains. Dry, hot weather will prevail across much of the Southeast.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY
Bangkok	91/77	Iwakuni
Beijing	82/69	Kadena AB
Camp Casey	81/66	Kunsan AB
Christchurch	43/32	Kwajalein
Diego Garcia	82/73	Manila
Hagatna	87/79	Misawa AB
Hanoi	90/79	Osan
Hong Kong	93/81	Perth
Honolulu	89/76	Pusan

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Sasebo NB	87/74	Acapulco	9
Sapporo	77/61	Athens	8
Seoul	82/68	Auckland	4
Shanghai	93/81	Baghdad	1
Singapore	91/77	Barbados	9
Sydney	54/30	Barcelona	8
Taegu	87/74	Berlin	7
Taipei	92/71	Bermuda	8
Tokyo	84/73	Brussels	8

ROW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
77	Budapest	85/63	Kabul	103/63
68	Buenos Aires	56/36	Kiev	76/58
36	Cairo	99/69	Kuwait	117/84
79	Cancun	87/73	London	72/55
74	Cape Town	60/46	Madrid	75/55
66	Geneva	76/58	Mexico City	75/54
59	Istanbul	70/56	Montreal	78/62
74	Jerusalem	91/63	Mogadishu	86/71
53	Johannesburg	73/43	Moscow	74/59

Tuesday's World Temperatures

77	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
77	Budapest	85/63	Kabul	103/63	Nairobi	76/50
66	Buenos Aires	76/58	Kiev	76/58	New Delhi	89/72
36	Cairo	99/69	Kuwait	117/84	Oslo	67/52
79	Cancun	87/73	London	72/55	Paris	71/51
74	Cape Town	60/46	Madrid	75/55	Rio de Janeiro	76/66
66	Geneva	76/58	Mexico City	75/54	Rome	87/67
59	Istanbul	70/56	Montreal	78/62	St. Petersburg	63/52
74	Jerusalem	91/63	Mogadishu	86/71	Stockholm	70/55
53	Johannesburg	73/63	Moscow	74/59	Warsaw	80/61



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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Tumble: U.S. humbled in Athens

TUMBLE, FROM BACK PAGE

Rico collapsed several defenders in the paint and took the U.S. team's best player, Tim Duncan, out of the offensive equation.

American teams had been 24-0 since the professional Olympic era began with the 1972 Dream Team, but now there is a blemish on their record to go with two losses to the Soviet Union in the 1972 gold medal game and the 1988 semifinals.

"I think Puerto Rico right now is celebrating big because of this," Arroyo said. "By far it's the happiest victory of my career."

The U.S. team handled the loss with grace, congratulating their opponents and joining them in a huddle at center court before both teams exited to a standing ovation.

The U.S. Olympic team's record now stands at 109-3.

"Anybody watching that game who enjoys basketball should get a thrill out of it," Brown said. "From our perspective, all we can do is figure out what we've made of. I'm anxious to see if we'll be able to do that."

The Americans shot only 35 percent, finished 3-for-24 from three-point range and had nearly as many turnovers (22) as field goals (26).

"We couldn't hit anything. I shot two off the side of the backboard. Never in my life have I done that," Richard Jefferson said. "This was a worst-case scenario."

Puerto Rico was 8-for-16 from long range and 31-55 (56 percent)



Puerto Rico's Carlos Arroyo, left, is hugged by teammate Elias Ayuso after their 92-73 upset of the United States on Sunday.

overall to help negate the Americans' 46-27 edge in rebounding.

After Odom's three, Puerto Rico backed off and dared the Americans to hit from long range. They didn't, missing eight three over the rest of the quarter to trail 21-20.

When Duncan and Allen Iverson sat down in the second quarter, Puerto Rico simply out-classed the Americans' young reserves. Arroyo drove past two defenders for a layup that made it 35-22, and the Americans were suddenly on their heels.

"International basketball is so different from the NBA," Jose Ortiz said. "They probably didn't know because of how young they are. I saw them a little panicked, but they were down 20 points, what can you do?"

Whistles and jeers greeted the Americans as they emerged from the locker room after halftime, but the crowd gave them some support when they tried to get back in the game in the third quarter.

Ginobili buzzer-beater rescues Argentina in first-round thriller

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Manu Ginobili's off-balance shot left his hand just a split-second before the final buzzer, dropping through the basket to give Argentina a thrilling 83-82 victory over Serbia-Montenegro on Sunday on the first day of Olympic men's basketball.

While Argentina's players mobbed Ginobili, Serbia-Montenegro's coach protested that the shot came after the buzzer. But TV replays showed Ginobili released the ball in time.

"Once it left my hand, I knew it was good," Ginobili said. "This is a very special thing."

Ginobili scored 27 points for Argentina, which avenged a defeat in the title game of the 2002 World Championships. A non-call by a referee at the end of regulation sent that game into overtime to help Serbia-Montenegro, then known as Yugoslavia, win.

This time, Argentina prevailed after a final 10 minutes that had all the excitement of a medal-round match. Neither team led by more than four points in the fourth quarter after Serbia-Montenegro came back from a big early deficit.

Ginobili scored on a drive with 16.4 seconds left and drew Vladimir Radmanovic's fifth and final foul, converting the three-point play for an 81-81 tie. Dejan Tomasevic then drew Fabricio Oberto's fifth foul on a shot attempt from the lane with 3.8 seconds left, but he made only one of two foul shots.

Argentinean advanced the ball quickly, and point guard Alejandro Montecchia hit Ginobili with a pass just inside the foul line.

Ginobili managed to get off a difficult shot from the right side of the lane that bounced off the glass and in.

"It was almost impossible," Ginobili said. "As soon as I saw it go in, I got ready" to be mobbed, he said.

Argentina coach Ruben Magnano sprinted around the court with his arms held high. The Serbia-Montenegro players, meanwhile, argued with the court's coach, Zelimir Obradovic, stayed on the scorekeepers and officials.

Radmanovic led Serbia-Montenegro with 21 points, Igor Kokocev added 19 and Dejan Bodiroga 16. Andres Nocioni, who signed Saturday with the NBA's Chicago Bulls, backed Ginobili with 12 points.

Spain 83, China 58: Pau Gasol and Spain won this Olympics' first matchup of NBA stars with an easy victory over Yao Ming and China.

Gasol, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, had 21 points and 10 rebounds despite missing 6 minutes in the first quarter after having his knee hit twice in a collision. It wasn't long after he returned that Spain went on a 9-0 run to go 35-23 and the rout was on with the lead reaching as many as 27 points.



Argentina's Emanuel David Ginobili, left, shoots the game-winning shot over Serbia and Montenegro's Djuro Ostojic as time expired in an Olympic preliminary round game Sunday in Helliniko, Greece.

Yao, the 7-foot-5 center for the Houston Rockets, had 12 points and eight rebounds. He fouled out with 4:02 to play when he was called for a blocking foul as Gasol tried to dunk over him. Earlier in the game, the 7-1 Gasol drew two charging fouls on Yao.

Italy 71, New Zealand 69: Gianluca Basile scored 16 points and Italy, which led by as many as 17 points, held on despite failing to score over the final 2 1/2 minutes.

Kirk Penney, who played in college at Wisconsin, led New Zealand with 20 points.

Lithuania 78, Angola 73: Lithuania beat African qualifier Angola. The Lithuanians attempted 50 free throws, making 32 of them, as Angola committed 37 fouls.

Iraqis celebrate second soccer win

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Iraq's Olympic soccer team proved its opening victory was no fluke.

Iraq defeated Costa Rica 2-0 Sunday night to advance to the quarterfinals in a game where a boisterous crowd not only provided atmosphere but temporarily halted play as jubilant Iraqi fans ran onto the field.

Iraq was not expected to qualify for the Olympic tournament, much less open with victories over Portugal and Costa Rica. The nation managed to put together a team despite the continuing conflict at home, and its success

at the Olympics has provided a rare bright spot for Iraqis around the world.

"We're delighted by the victories because we know what it means to our people," Iraq coach Adnan Hamad said through an interpreter.

In the 67th minute, Hawar Mulla Mohammed slammed a bouncing ball into the net from 18 yards out to put Iraq ahead, sending the crowd into a frenzy. Mohammed jubilantly sprinted around the endline and up the sideline, where he was mobbed by his teammates.

Within moments, a couple of

Iraqi fans jumped out of the crowd to join the celebration. About two dozen others followed suit, running around the field and the area surrounding it. Police and security personnel responded, but it took about three minutes to clear the pitch of fans and debris.

Shortly after the ensuing kick-off, Mohammed took the ball down the left side and crossed it to Mahdi Karim, who headed it in — prompting several fans to take to the field yet again.

One jumped around the Costa Rican goal and tossed an Iraqi flag into the net. Another ran to midfield and hugged an Iraqi player.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/ART

Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson of the United States shoots in the Trap competition at the Markopolo shooting venue during the 2004 Olympics Games in Athens. Erickson, a shooter with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, Fort Benning, Ga., finished 13th overall in the event with 118 points.

Aussie Carrigan sneaks by leader to win cycling gold

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Judith Arndt looked left. Sara Carrigan went to the right — and right past her.

Carrigan snuck past Arndt in the final straightaway Sunday to win the gold medal in the Olympic road cycling race through downtown Athens. The Australian — a winner of three golds in Sydney — fell near the end of the seventh lap in the nine-lap race, leaving her chances to repeat. She swept the road race, the time trial and the individual pursuit in the 2000 Games.

She sat on the road for several minutes before being taken to a hospital for evaluation. It wasn't immediately known if she'd be able to ride in the time trial.

Fencing
Women's epee: Defending champion Timea Nagy of Hungary held on to the gold medal, defeating Laura Flessel-Colovic of France 15-12 in the final.

Flessel-Colovic's silver medal gives her a complete set. She took gold in Atlanta and bronze in Sydney.

It was also Hungary versus France in the bronze medal match, but this time the French came out on top as Maureen Nisima defeated Ildiko Mincza 15-12.

Judo
Men's 66kg: Masato Uchibashi of Japan ended nearly a decade of Japan's frustration in the weight class by defeating Jozef Krnac of Slovakia in the final. Georgia Georgiev of Bulgaria and Yordanka Aranchina Verdecia of Cuba shared the bronze.

Women's 52kg: China's Jian Dongmei stopped a Japanese judo streak by beating Yuki Yokoyama of Japan.

the field, which by then was racing for bronze.

Entering the final half-mile, Carrigan drafted off Arndt, waiting to make one final move. It came when Arndt looked over her left shoulder to see where she was. And by then, she was gone, quickly darting right and accelerating through the finish line.

Arndt finished 7 seconds back. Defending gold medalist Leonien Zijlstra-van Moorsel of the Netherlands — a winner of three golds in Sydney — fell near the end of the seventh lap in the nine-lap race, leaving her chances to repeat. She swept the road race, the time trial and the individual pursuit in the 2000 Games.

She sat on the road for several minutes before being taken to a hospital for evaluation. It wasn't immediately known if she'd be able to ride in the time trial.

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Women's 52kg: China's Jian Dongmei stopped a Japanese judo streak by beating Yuki Yokoyama of Japan.

sawa of Japan. Xian's gold is the first by a non-Japanese in judo after two days and four events.

World champion Amariys Seven of Cuba and Ilse Heylen of Belgium earned bronze.

Shooting

Men's trap: Alexei Alipov of Russia won the event with a perfect final round.

Alipov shot all 25 targets in the final to finish with an overall score of 149, tying the Olympic record. In the qualifying round, Alipov also matched an Olympic record, scoring 124 out of a possible 125. Both records were set in Atlanta by Michael Diamond of Austria.

Scores from the qualifying round are added to scores from the final to determine the winner. Alipov finished three points ahead of Italy's Giovanni Pellielo, who won the silver. Adam Vella of Australia took the bronze with a 145.

American Lance Bade of Vancouver, Wash., who won a bronze medal in trap in Atlanta in 1996, finished fifth. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson finished 13th.

Women's 10m air pistol: Olena Kostevych of Ukraine won the gold in women's 10-meter air pistol after a shoot-off. After 10 shots in the final round, and 40 shots in qualifying, Kostevych and Jasna Sekaric of Serbia-Montenegro were tied at 483.3. In the one-shot tiebreaker, Kostevych shot a 10.2 to Sekaric's 9.4 to win.

In the bronze-medal shoot-off, Bulgaria's Maria Grodzova shot a 10.4, while China's Ren Jie shot a 9.7. They had been tied at 482.3, one point behind Kostevych and Sekaric.

Libby Callahan, a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve who at age 52 is the oldest U.S. athlete competing in Athens, was 30th.

Williams, Roddick open with easy wins

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Venus Williams knows all about Olympic success. Andy Roddick got his first taste of it Sunday.

Bothered more by the wind and her wrist wrap than her opponent, defending gold medalist Williams overpowered Melinda Cizik of Hungary 6-1, 6-2 before mostly small crowds on the opening day of the Olympic tennis tournament.

Roddick made his Olympic debut with a 6-3, 7-6 (4) victory over Flavio Saretta of Brazil, swatting 12 aces and 16 service winners.

The biggest upset Sunday was No. 4 Tim Henman's 5-3, 6-3 loss to Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, while No. 11 Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina was upset by Max Mirnyi of Belarus 3-6, 7-6 (0), 6-4.

Marat Safin had a 6-0, 6-4 victory over Karol Kucera of Slovakia. Safin lost in the first round at the Sydney Games right after winning the 2000 U.S. Open title.

Other winners included No. 5 Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, No. 14 Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany, and No. 16 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile. Roddick's potential third-round foe.

The arena looked to be a quarter full for Justine Henin-Hardenne's 6-3, 6-4 victory over Barbara Stroyanova of the Czech Republic. The first night may have had trouble keeping track of who was leading. The scoreboard didn't work from early in the first set until early in the second.

After getting broken to start the match, the top-ranked Belgian looked good in her first match since losing in the French Open's second round.

In other women's play, No. 8 Ai



Venus Williams defeated Hungary's Melinda Cizik 6-1, 6-2 on center court at the Olympic tennis complex in Athens on Sunday.

Sugiama of Japan outlasted Zheng Jie of China 6-3, 6-3, 8-6 in a 2 1/2-hour match suspended for 10 minutes after the second set because of heat. No. 10 Patty Schnyder of Switzerland and No. 11 Francesca Schiavone of Italy won.

Only about 500 spectators were on hand at the 8,000-seat center court for the start of Williams' first outing in three weeks. She quit with a right wrist injury during a semifinal at Carson, California, then pulled out of the next WTA tournament.

"I had so much fun at the last Olympics and so much success, and then to be here is amazing," said the sixth-seeded Williams, who also won the doubles title in Sydney.

"I'm playing well, I'm playing smart, and I'm also really happy because I've been doing everything my coaches asked me to in the last week."

U.S. rowers set world records during preliminary rounds

The Associated Press

SCHINIAS, Greece — America's Olympic rowers arrived in Greece saying they were ready for the rough conditions at their venue on a windswept, manmade lake outside Athens. Turns out they were right.

With a tail wind packing gusts of up to 15 mph, both U.S. men's and women's eights broke world records and won tough preliminary heats Sunday.

It was a tail wind that built Monday, however. Forecasts of even stronger winds prompted organizers to postpone those races.

Organizers hoped to move Monday's races to Tuesday, when forecasters predict the wind will die down enough for racing.

The American women's eight won in 5:56.5, eclipsing the previous world mark of 5:57.02 set by Romania in 1999. They advance directly to next Sunday's final.

The American women, who have won both World Cup events they entered this year, have been strong the past three years. They won the world championship in 2002, but suffered an uncharacteristic mistake in last year's worlds when they caught an air and brought the boat to a halt. Germany finished first in that race, Romania second.

The U.S. men's eight was third after the start. At half distance they were up to second place, about eight-tenths of a second behind Canada, then pulled ahead at the end to win by .6. The Americans finished in 5:19.85, easily beating the mark of 5:22.80, set by the Netherlands in 1999.

"I know the strength of our boat in a complete race, so there was never any panic," said oarsman Wyatt Allen, of Portland, Maine.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division			
	L	P	GB
New York	75	41	64.1
Baltimore	52	49	81.1
Boston	54	49	81.5
Toronto	54	49	81.5

Central Division			
	L	P	GB
Chicago	65	56	52.9
Cleveland	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

West Division			
	L	P	GB
Oakland	64	62	56.1
Los Angeles	64	62	56.1
San Francisco	64	62	56.1
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Sunday's games			
	L	P	GB
Toronto 7, Baltimore 2			
Los Angeles 2, Seattle 1			
Oakland 6, Kansas City 1			
Chicago White Sox 3, Cleveland 1			
Minnesota 1, Toronto 1			
Seattle 1, Anaheim 1			

Monday's games			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 11, Toronto 7			
Chicago 4, Cleveland 2			
Los Angeles 2, Toronto 1			
Seattle 1, Tampa Bay 2			
San Francisco 1, Boston 4			
Minnesota 1, Detroit 8			

Tuesday's games			
	L	P	GB
Toronto at Baltimore			
Oakland at Tampa Bay			
Cleveland at Texas			
Los Angeles at Chicago White Sox			
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota			
Seattle at Kansas City			

Wednesday's games			
	L	P	GB
Toronto (Miller 1-1) at Boston (Love 10-10)			
Cleveland (Redman 9-6) at Texas (Callaway 3-0)			

Thursday's games			
	L	P	GB
Toronto at Baltimore			
Oakland at Tampa Bay			
Cleveland at Texas			
Los Angeles at Chicago White Sox			
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota			
Seattle at Kansas City			

Friday's games			
	L	P	GB
Toronto (Miller 1-1) at Boston (Love 10-10)			
Cleveland (Redman 9-6) at Texas (Callaway 3-0)			

Saturday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Sunday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Monday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Tuesday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Wednesday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Thursday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Friday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Saturday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Sunday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Monday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Tuesday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Wednesday			
	L	P	GB
Baltimore 7, Toronto 2			

Kansas City			
	L	P	GB
San Francisco	65	56	52.9
Cleveland	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Chicago			
	L	P	GB
Chicago	65	56	52.9
Cleveland	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Boston			
	L	P	GB
Boston	65	56	52.9
Cleveland	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Detroit			
	L	P	GB
Detroit	65	56	52.9
Cleveland	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Cleveland			
	L	P	GB
Cleveland	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Minnesota			
	L	P	GB
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

St. Louis			
	L	P	GB
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Seattle			
	L	P	GB
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Texas			
	L	P	GB
Texas	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Texas			
	L	P	GB
Texas	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Texas			
	L	P	GB
Texas	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Texas			
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Texas	65	56	52.9
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	L	P	GB
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Texas			
	L	P	GB
Texas	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

Texas			
	L	P	GB
Texas	65	56	52.9
Minnesota	65	56	52.9
St. Louis	65	56	52.9
Seattle	43	77	37.2

AL leaders

Batting			
	L	P	GB
Suzuki Sea	115	507	68
Rodriguez	93	561	125
Rodriguez	101	540	135
Alfonso	113	449	146
Thatcher	138	379	152
Young	139	379	152
Thatcher	139	379	152
Thatcher	139	379	152
Thatcher	139	379	152
Thatcher	139	379	152

Pitching			
	L	P	GB
Dwight Gooden	12	1	0
Randy Johnson	12	1	0
Randy Johnson	12	1	0
Randy Johnson	12	1	0
Randy Johnson	12	1	0

Fielding			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Baseball			
	L	P	GB
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0
Tim Lincecum	12	1	0

Twins regain control in AL Central race

Minnesota gets two in 10th to shade Tribe and remain in first

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Corey Koskie hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning and the Minnesota Twins overcame a two-run deficit to beat Cleveland 4-2 on Sunday and prevent the Indians from pulling into a tie for the AL Central lead.

After Lew Ford was hit by a pitch, Koskie hit a 1-2 pitch from Rick White (4-5) to right-center for his 17th homer.

Joe Nathan pitched the 10th for his 34th save in 35 chances. He hasn't allowed a run in 27 appearances.

Minnesota, which had lost eight of 10, boosted its lead to two games over the second-place Indians, who had won 10 of 11.

The Indians put two runners in scoring position in the ninth, but Juan Rincón (10-5) retired Ronnie Bellard — the only batter he faced — on a liner to center.

Terry Mulholland allowed two runs and six hits in eight innings, the longest outing for the 41-year-old left-hander since 2000, when he was with Atlanta.

The Indians scored in the first inning for the third time in the season. Mulholland was unable to keep them from a fifth inning.

After Bellard walked, Omar Vizquel grounded to the pitcher for what should have been an



Minnesota third baseman Corey Koskie flags down a hot shot by Cleveland's Ronnie Bellard during the fifth inning on Sunday. Koskie recovered in time to throw out Bellard at first. Minnesota won 4-2 in 10 innings.

easy double play. Mulholland threw wide of Christian Guzman at second and into center field for an error. Matt Lawton hit into a run-scoring double play and Grady Sizemore's sacrifice fly in the second made it 2-0.

Minnesota tied it in the sixth on a two-run double by pinch-hitter Jose Offerman.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 7: David Newhan tied a career high with four hits, including a go-ahead double in visiting Baltimore's eight-run eighth inning.

Newhan went 4-for-5 and Melvin Mora drove in three runs as the Orioles won their fourth straight series by taking three of four from Toronto. Baltimore has won 11 of 13 overall.

After Mora hit an RBI single in the fifth and added a sacrifice fly off Kevin Frederick in the seventh to cut it to 7-3, the Orioles

sent 12 men to the plate in the eighth.

Pinch-hitter Javy Lopez hit a two-run double off Vinnie Chulk (0-3) and Brian Roberts hit a two-run single, tying it 7-7. Newhan followed with a go-ahead double off Jason Frasor. Miguel Tejada and B.J. Surhoff later hit run-scoring singles and Karim Garcia added a sacrifice fly to give Baltimore an 11-7 lead.

White Sox 5, Red Sox 4: Mark Buehrle (11-6) overcame four hits in seven innings, Carlos Lee had a home run and three RBIs and Chicago got out of a line-ninning jam to beat Boston.

Boston loaded the bases in the ninth for the second straight inning and Jason Varitek hit a three-run single off Shingo Takatsu that left runners at first and third with two outs.

Orlando Cabrera, who had

three hits, then hit a game-ending comebacker to Takatsu, who got his 12th save in 13 chances.

Rangers 6, Devil Rays 2: Laynce Nix homered and drove in three runs, including a tiebreaking sacrifice fly, and Texas swept the three-game series.

Mark Teixeira also hit a two-run homer for the host Rangers, and Ryan Drese (10-6) pitched 7 1/3 innings to win his third straight start.

Aubrey Huff hit his 22nd homer for the Devil Rays, who have lost six in three. Tampa Bay is 14-25 since moving over .500 at 40-38 on July 3.

In Saturday's AL games:

Indians 7, Twins 1: Playing in front of their first sellout crowd (40,942) since Opening Day, the Indians pulled within one game of the AL Central lead. Jake West-

brook (11-5) won for the fifth time in six starts, giving up one run and five hits in seven innings. Travis Hafner hit a two-run homer in the first inning. Casey Blake hit a solo shot and Ronnie Bellard's major league-leading 41st double off the wall in left scored Ben Broussard from first for a 4-0 lead. Victor Martinez added a three-run homer in the fifth.

Yankees 6, Mariners 4: John Olerud hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning against his former team, helping New York win its fourth straight.

Athletics 6, Royals 1: Mark Kotsay made a run-saving sliding catch on Ruben Mateo's bloop to center to preserve a tie in the top of the sixth, then homered off Brian Anderson (2-10) to lead off a five-run bottom half of the inning for the host A's.

Rich Harden (7-5) won his fourth straight decision.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 2: Josh Towers (8-4) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings to beat his former team and win for the sixth time in seven starts.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 3: David Ortiz's second homer of the game broke an eighth-inning tie and Curt Schilling (14-6) got his first home victory in seven weeks as Boston beat visiting Chicago.

Boston's Manny Ramirez hit his 20th homer.

Rangers 6, Devil Rays 2: Kevin Mench hit a go-ahead home run in the fifth inning and Gary Matthews Jr. added a solo shot to lead host Texas over Tampa Bay.

Angels 11, Tigers 8: Chone Figgins hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and drove in four runs for host Anaheim.

'Big Unit' throws a big zero at New York

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Randy Johnson struck out 14 and took a four-hitter into the ninth inning to help the Arizona Diamondbacks end a nine-game losing streak Sunday, beating Steve Trachsel and the New York Mets 2-0.

In a matchup of contrasting styles, the overpowering Johnson outpitched the finicky Trachsel through a steady but light rain, the tepid remnants of Hurricane Charley.

Johnson (12-10) retired the first 10 Mets before allowing an opposite-field single to right by Joe McEwing.

Johnson left in the ninth after allowing a one-out single to Todd Zeile and his Greg Aquino got two outs for his fourth save.

Giants 3, Phillies 1: Brett Tonko allowed one run in six innings for his first win in nearly a month, helping visiting San Francisco complete a three-game sweep.

Tomko (6-6) allowed four hits, giving up only one run on Bobby Abreu's sixth-inning homer. He had been 0-1 in five starts since beating Arizona on July 19.

NL Roundup

The Phillies lost the sixth time in seven games.

Pirates 3, Rockies 0: Craig Wilson had three hits and two RBIs and Josh Fogt pitched six innings to win for the first time in eight starts since July 2.

The game in Pittsburgh was interrupted by a fourth-inning fight that led to the ejections of Colorado starting pitcher Jose Kennedy and Pirates catcher Jason Kendall.

Fogt (7-8) allowed four hits, struck out five and walked two, escaping a bases-loaded jam in the sixth when left fielder Jason Bay made a diving catch on Matt Holliday's sinking liner.

Padres 7, Reds 2: Adam Eaton allowed two runs in the first inning but kept host Cincinnati scoreless over the next five and also drove in two runs from San Diego. Eaton (8-10) gave up eight hits and one walk with eight strikeouts in six innings, and

went 2-for-2 with two doubles, two runs scored and a sacrifice bunt.

He doubled and scored the go-ahead run on Khalil Greene's two-run single that gave San Diego a 3-2 lead in the second inning.

Astros 5, Expos 4: Pinch-hitter Orlando Palmeiro singled home the go-ahead run to cap a three-run rally in the top of the ninth and Houston ended Montreal's season-high seven-game winning streak.

Montreal led 4-2 when Jeff Kent and Michael Lamb hit consecutive one-out singles to chase Livan Hernandez, who had allowed Carlos Beltran's two-run homer in the first. Jason Lee hit a three-run single off Luis Ayala (4-8), and Jose Vizcaino tied the score with a groundout to shortstop.

Dodgers 8, Cubs 5: Adrian Beltré and Shawn Green homered and Steve Finley hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth for Lusting Los Angeles. Milton Bradley drove in two runs in the eighth for the Dodgers, who maintained a 6 1/2-game lead in the NL West.

Corey Patterson hit a two-run homer and Ramon Martinez and Michael Barrett each hit solo shots for Chicago, which dropped into a tie with San Diego in the NL wild-card race.

Duaner Sanchez (3-1) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win, and Eric Gagne pitched the eighth and ninth innings for his 35th save in 36 opportunities.

Marlins 5, Brewers 3 (10): Luis Castillo tied the score with a ninth-inning single and pinch-hitter Damian Easley hit a two-run double in the 10th as visiting Florida beat Milwaukee.

Ben Henderson (0-5) walked Juan Encarnacion with two outs in the 10th, then allowed a single to Alex Gonzalez and the double to Easley, who was batting for Rudy Seanez (1-0).

Armando Benitez pitched a perfect 10th, striking out two, for his 34th save in 37 chances.

In Saturday's NL games:

Pirates 6, Rockies 1: Jose Castillo drove in a career-high three runs to back Oliver Perez (8-6). Castillo and Craig Wilson homered for the host Pirates, who had lost two straight after win-

ning four in a row. Castillo, a rookie second baseman, was 3-for-4 with two singles.

Colorado's Vinny Castilla home-dered.

Marlins 11, Brewers 1: Jeff Conine's third grand slam of the season highlighted visiting Florida's seven-run ninth inning.

Dontrelle Willis (9-8) threw seven innings and Paul Lo Duca and Miguel Cabrera each drove in two runs for the Marlins, who had lost six of seven on the road.

Mets 4, Diamondbacks 3: Cliff Floyd homered and drove in three runs and New York extended visiting Arizona's losing streak to nine games. Al Leiter (9-4) worked into the seventh inning to earn the victory, the Mets' third in a row and fourth in five games.

Expos 8, Astros 3: Nick Johnson hit his first NL grand slam, Tony Armas Jr. pitched five hitless innings before leaving because of a high pitch count and host Montreal stretched its season-best winning streak to seven.

Reds 11, Padres 5: Wily Mo Pena homered twice and drove in four runs, helping host Cincinnati beat San Diego.

SPORTS

Puerto Rico sends USA tumbling



Singh leads PGA Championship, but Els, Leonard close behind entering final round, Page 24



Team USA's Allen Iverson, left, goes out of bounds as he's fouled by Puerto Rico's Joe Ortiz in the first half of an Olympics preliminary round game in Helliniko, Greece. Puerto Rico routed the Americans 92-73, the first time a U.S. team has lost in the Olympic Games using NBA players.

Humiliating 19-point rout is first-ever Olympic loss for team of NBA players

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — In an upset as historic as it was inevitable, Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson and the rest of the U.S. basketball team lost 92-73 to Puerto Rico on Sunday, only the third Olympic loss ever for America and its first since adding pros.

It was by far the most lopsided defeat for a U.S. men's team.

"I'm humiliated, not for the loss — I can always deal with wins and losses — but I'm disappointed because I had a job to do as a coach, to get us to understand how we're supposed to play as a team and act as a team, and I don't think we did that," Larry Brown said.

Puerto Rico, which had lost to the Americans five times in the past 13 months, led for more than 33 minutes of the 40-minute game.

They were ahead by 22 at halftime and gamely held off a fourth-quarter comeback for one of the biggest sports achievements in the territory's history.

"We're a small island with a big heart," guard Elias Ayuso said.

The loss was a blow to the Americans' confidence, but it did little to hurt their gold medal chances. They need only to finish in the top four of their six-team group to reach the quarterfinals.

Still, the defeat will go a long way toward giving the competition hope that it's someone else's turn to move to the top of a sport that's been dominated by

one country for nearly three-quarters of a century.

As Carlos Arroyo left the court with just over a minute left, he defiantly pulled at the words "Puerto Rico" on his jersey. He led his team with 24 points.

"That was him telling his island of 4 million people he was very proud to beat the big colossus from the north," Puerto Rico coach Julio Taro said.

Anyone in America who didn't see this coming hadn't been paying attention to the way international basketball has been changing.

The U.S. team nearly lost in the semifinals at Sydney on a last-second miss by Lithuania, then dropped three games on its home turf in the 2002 World Championships in Indianapolis — the first losses ever by a U.S. team of NBA professionals.

This year's team, weakened by the defections and rejections of 12 top players, opened its pre-Olympic tour of Europe with a 17-point loss to Italy and a last-second victory over Germany — a pair of games in which their vulnerability to a tight zone defense was clearly exposed.

Puerto Rico used that defensive strategy, too, and the Americans could do next to nothing against it.

After Lamar Odom made a three-pointer for the U.S. team's first points, the Americans missed 16 straight from behind the arc. They tried to get the ball inside, but Puerto

SEE TUMBLE ON PAGE 27

Medal count

Leaders after 25 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Sunday, Aug. 15:

Country	G	S	B	Total
China	5	2	1	8
Australia	4	1	3	8
United States	1	4	3	8
Russia	1	3	2	6
Japan	1	1	0	2
France	1	2	2	5
Italy	2	1	0	3
Turkey	2	0	1	3
Ukraine	2	0	1	3
Hungary	1	1	1	3
Netherlands	0	1	2	3

2004 Athens Olympics: Day 2 highlights



Roddick, V. Williams advance through first round

Page 28

Relay bronze ends Phelps' quest for eight golds; Hansen settles for silver

Page 29



Spurs' Ginobili lifts Argentina at buzzer

Page 27

■ U.S. softball team shows Australia no mercy, Page 29

■ American rowers set world records during heats, Page 28

■ Olympic scoreboard, Page 26

Ailing Stewart guts out victory at Watkins Glen Page 25

